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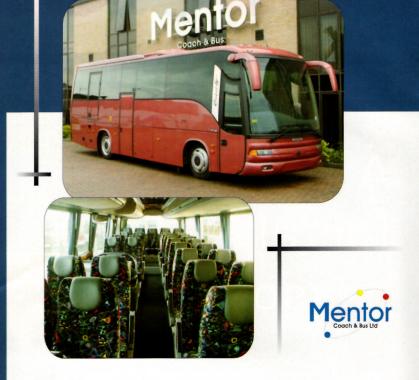


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tioned, centre toilet, continental door
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2001 (Sept) BOVA FUTURA FHD 12.370 INTEGRAL 12M

49 recliners, blue/multi-col moquette, centre sunken toilet, double glazed tinted side windows, curtains, courier seat, AIR CON, drinks machine, fridge, ZF retarder, power driver's window and wired 2x for TV/video. Exterior metallic lilac.

2000 VOLVO B10M BERKHOF AXIAL 12M

51 recliners, blue multi-col moquette, centre sunken toilet, double glazed side windows, curtains, courier seat, AIR CON, fridge, drinks machine, Webasto pre-heater and wired TV/video. Exterior white.





2000 IVECO EURORIDER BEULAS STERGO-e 12M

49 recliners, blue/multi-col moquette, centre sunken toilet, power operated continental door, double glazed tinted side windows, curtains, courier seat, AIR CON, driver's sleeping berth, drinks machine, fridge, wired for TV/video, driver's door, and power courier's and driver's windows. Exterior white.

1998 VOLVO B10M JONCKHEERE MISTRAL 12M

51/53 recliners, grey multi-col moquette, centre sunken demountable toilet, double glazed side windows, curtains, courier seat, fridge, drinks machine and wired TV/video. Exterior white.





1998 SCANIA K113 VAN HOOL ALIZEE-HE 12M

49 recliners, blue multi-col moquette, centre sunken toilet, double glazed side windows, curtains, courier seat, AIR CON, fridge, drinks machine, driver's berth, Comfort shift gearbox, retarder, alloy wheels and wired TV/video. Exterior white.

1997 (Aug) VOLVO B10M VAN HOOL ALIZEE-HE 12M

49 recliners, grey multi-col moquette, centre sunken toilet, double glazed side windows, curtains, courier seat, AIR CON, fridge, drinks machine, TELMA retarder, cruise control and wired TV/video. Exterior white.





1996 VOLVO B10M JONCKHEERE DEAUVILLE 12M

49 recliners, grey multi-col moquette, centre sunken toilet, double glazed side windows, curtains, courier seat, AIR CON, drinks machine and wired TV/video. Exterior white.

1996 DENNIS JAVELIN GX290 BERKHOF EXCELLENCE 1000 12M

51 Vogel recliners, grey multi-col moquette, rear sunken toilet, double glazed side windows, curtains, courier seat, drinks machine, AIR CON and wired TV/video. Exterior white.





1995 BOVA FUTURA FHD 12.340 INTEGRAL 12M

49 recliners, grey multi-col moquette, centre sunken toilet, double glazed tinted side windows, curtains, courier seat, AIR CON, drinks machine, fridge and wired for TV/video. Exterior white.

NEW IN

2002 IVECO EURORIDER BEULAS EL MUNDO 12M 48R 2001 IVECO EURORIDER BEULAS EL MUNDO 12M 48R 2001 (Sept) SCANIA L94 VAN HOOL ALIZEE-H 12M 49/53R 2000 SCANIA L94 VAN HOOL ALIZEE-H 12M 49/53R 1996 DAF SB3000 VAN HOOL ALIZEE-H 12M 49R











Arriva buys Merseyline

Arriva has acquired the Liverpool based bus company, Meadowhall Ltd. that trades as Mersevline Travel. The company has been operating four services in the city with a fleet of 19 buses. It is understood that Arriva will be offering employment to all the Merseyline staff and will also be taking the company's buses. Arriva does not intend to run them on the services but will replace them with their own vehicles, which are much newer

Speaking of the acquisition, Arriva North West and Wales MD. Bob Hind, said, 'We are delighted with the acquisition, which will enable us to further strengthen our network and improve the quality of public transport in Merseyside.

. . . and Metroline buys **Thorpes**

Metroline has bought the bus operations of F.E.Thorpe and Sons. Thorpes based in West London have been running 66 buses on four main contracts and also has additional vehicles operating mobility bus services in the area.

It is intended to operate the

company as a standalone business within Metroline continuing to run its contracts from premises at Perivale and Wembley. Jim and Frank Thorpe, the present owners, will continue to manage the daily operations reporting to Metroline MD Steve McAleavy.

easyBus to start on August 19

easyBus, the new low cost express coach service being set up by the founder of easyJet Stelios Haji-Ioannou, will start operating on August 19. The first service will operate from Milton Keynes to Hendon central with fares starting from £1. A second route will follow, operating between Hendon



central and Luton Airport. The intention then is to link other towns along the M1 corridor to London and then to link other key destinations in the northern home counties

The services are to be operated initially with a fleet of ten new Mercedes Sprinter minicoaches painted in the familiar 'easy' orange livery.

Hendon has been chosen as the destination and start point for the first two services because it gives good Underground connections to central London

. Stagecoach buys Motorvator

Stagecoach has bought the express coach business operated by Scottish based Motorvator. The company has been operating a 30-minute headway express service between Edinburgh and Glasgow. It is understood that Stagecoach will offer the Motorvator staff jobs within its operations but it is not taking over the vehicles run by Motovator.

Speaking of the purchase, Tom Wileman, Director of Stagecoach

Scotland said, 'Motorvator will be an excellent addition to our range of inter-city services. We believe we can develop the Motorvator business as part of our strategy to attract more people out of their cars and on to public transport."

John Bruce, joint owner of Motorvator said, 'We are delighted Stagecoach are taking over the Motorvator business and that they are committed to investing in the business and taking it forward.'

Arriva - Sovereign deal goes to Competition Commission

The Office of Fair Trading has referred the proposed acquisition by Arriva of Soverign Bus and Coach of Stevenage (see B&CB issue 771, 2 July 2004) to the Competition Commission. The OFT believes that it is or may be the case that arrangements are in progress which, if carried into effect, will result in a relevant merger situation, and that the creation of that situation may be expected to result in a substantial lessening of competition within the market for bus services in

Penny Boys, Executive Director at the OFT said, 'This transaction combines the leading and second largest bus operator in Hertfordshire. There is a substantial risk that Arriva's absorption of Sovereign will remove an important competitive constraint - the threat of entry on to each other's routes. It is for the CC to assess further whether the merger is likely to lead to higher prices and reduced service for passengers.'

Poor Local Authority performers improve

Four local authorities whose poor performance led to them having transport funding withheld have taken enough positive steps towards improvement to qualify for capital funds. Thurrock, East Sussex, Plymouth and Southend all scored 'weak' last December and had 5 to 10% of their allocations withheld.

Speaking of the improvement, Transport Minister Stephen McNulty said, I am very encouraged to see that the authorities assessed as weak have

taken positive steps to improvement. We are not in the business of naming and shaming but the poor showing last year has clearly provided the stimulus to take some necessary action. We are serious about the need to improve performance where it is lacking. Authorities should note that we are certainly minded to continue with a similar approach next year, however they should not assume that reduced allocations will be returned in this way in the future.

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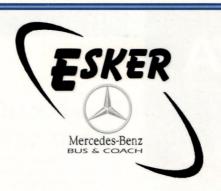
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Tougher rules for foreign coach drivers who flout the law

The Government has announced moves to stop foreign coach drivers breaking UK laws and then disappearing back to their home country before being prosecuted.

It is issuing a consultation document aimed at achieving a graduated fixed penalty and roadside deposit scheme for commercial vehicles including coaches. Under the proposals, non-UK resident drivers committing an offence will have to provide a cash deposit at the roadside equal to the fine that the offence attracts

The Government is also proposing a new graduated fixed penalty scheme for motoring offences which it says will be fairer. VOSA will be empowered to issue fixed penalty notices for vehicle offences. Currently only the police

can issue such notices.

Speaking of the proposals, David Jamieson, Transport Minister said. 'The Government is keen to clear up the unfair situation where foreign coach divers can avoid paying a penalty by leaving the country. It is only right that foreign coach drivers are treated the same as UK ones, particularly as UK drivers in Europe cannot escape penalties. I am aware the industry feels strongly on this matter and I want to make these changes as soon as possible.' On graduated penalties he said, 'We are also consulting on graduated penalties, which would reflect on the seriousness and number of offences. I hope we will be able to have a system which is more proportionate and effective.'

Eavesway buy more 13.8m T917 Astrons

Eavesway Travel of Ashton-in-Makerfield, Lancashire have been so impressed with the two 13.8m Van Hool T917 Astrons they put into service earlier this year and which were evaluated in B&CB issue 760, 16 April 2004, that they have ordered three more of the giant single deck coaches. Eavesway bought the coaches primarily for

coaches primarily for operating cruise ship duties because of their huge luggage capacity, 19cu.m. This has enabled them to cut down on the number of vehicles being used for a particular duty. In the number of the particular duty.

a particular duty. In the past they often had to use two coaches to carry the equivalent load because of the large amount of luggage. They have also found the coaches, which are fitted with 460bhp MAN engines and 12 speed ZF AS-Tronic transmissions, to be very economical.

Two of the new coaches will be identical in basic specification to the earlier ones, with 54 seats and full in coach touring package, but they will differ mechanically in having the DAF engine instead of the MAN. The DAF engine is slightly more powerful at 483bhp

and will again be matched to AS-Tronic transmission. Eavesway have chosen to have the DAF engine so that they can compare the performance of the two different engines. They already run a large fleet of DAF engined coaches.

The third Astron T917 will be a



very special coach. It is being built to a super luxury specification with just 36 seats, lounge, kitchen, advanced sound and vision systems and will become the new team coach for the Premier League football club, Manchester United. Eavesway have held the Manchester United team transport contract for many years. This coach will have the MAN power unit and will replace the current team coach which is a MAN powered Van Hool EOS integral.

The new coaches are being supplied by Arriva Bus and Coach.

GoSkills Board named

GoSkills has named the members of its Board they are: Chris Moyes, CEO designate, Go-Ahead Group plc; Nigel Daniel, CEO, Swissport UK; Jennifer Digby, HR Executive, Arriva Passenger Services; Mike Galvin, Group MD, Computer Cab plc; David Luckett MBE, Chairman, Lucketts Holdings; Keith Mirchell, Partner Peter Brett Associates; Brian Shawdale, Advice and Training Director, CTA; Graham Stevenson, National Organiser of the T&G Union.

National Express turns in good six months results

National Express increased both turnover and profit in the first six months of this year's trading. Turnover rose from £1,258.8million to £1,266.7m. Operating profit rose by 9.4% to £61.4m and profit before tax was up 19.2% at £47.9m. Cashflow also rose from £70.7m to £127.8m whilst debt dropped from £184.6m to £123.2m

The Bus sector increased turnover from £103.8m to £115.1m but operating profit fell marginally from £22.1m to

DaimlerChrysler big profits rise

DaimlerChrysler is reporting a big rise in operating profits in the second quarter of trading. Profits are up 225% from Euros 0.6 billion to Euros 2.1 billion. Revenues rose by 9% to Euros 37.1. The Bus Division saw an increase of 30% in sales, amounting to 8,500 buses and chassis world wide but the company warns that it thinks the overall market will remain at the 2003 level.

£21.1mi. The company says it is particularly pleased with the new London operation, which is making good progress. It now operates 15 contracts and will soon be using the former LT Walworth garage in Camberwell, which is being refurbished. It also revealed that its Travel Dundee bus fleet will become 100% low floor, easy access, during 2004 - eleven years ahead of the Government

Its Rail operations also performed well, raising both

New MAN Lion's City double decker for Berlin

MAN's new Lion's City double deck for Berlin is to be launched at the Hanover Show in September. The 13.7m long three axle decker is one of an order for 101 for the German

city. Neoman has announced a number of new MAN and Neoplan models to be launched at Hanover. Rob Orchard looks at some of them on pages

turnover and profit.

The express coach operation continues to progress with turnover up from £85.3million to £87.8million and profit increasing from £2.9million to £4.2million. Passenger numbers increased by 6%, the best ever achieved by the division. Interestingly, National Express services do not seem to have been affected by Stagecoach's Megabus operation, giving credence to Stagecoach's claim that it has grown the market.

National Express is due to

introduce its first up-specified coaches in September which will feature climate control, leather seating and on board television. The report also reveals that Eurolines, the international coach operation, is to use 13.7m vehicles to increase passenger payloads.

The company also traded well in its US operations and Australia.

The report also reveals that National Express does not expect to have exited from its investment in EuroStar before the end of the



Peter Shelley, Operations Director of Solent Blue Line and one of its founders in 1987, has left the company. Speaking of his departure Peter said, 'It has been fascinating seeing the company grow from sixteen vehicles to a £7 million a year business and I am looking forward to using the experience elsewhere.



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2003 DAF SB3000, man OVI VERSATILE, 49 reclining seats, centre sunken toilet, air condit	
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2001 EOS 90, auto MAN eng, 48 reclining seats, rear toilet, air conditioning£1	45,000
2000 SCANIA K124, C shift VANHOOL ALIZEE T9, 49 reclining seats, centre sunken toilet,	
air conditioning£1	29,500
1999 DAF SB3000, auto VANHOOL ALIZEE H, 49 reclining seats, centre sunken toilet, air	
conditioning£1	19,500
1999 EOS 90, man MAN eng, 48 reclining seats, rear toilet, air conditioning£1	19,500
1998 DAF SB3000, man VANHOOL ALIZEE H, 51 reclining seats, centre sunken toilet, air	
conditioning£	99,000
1998 DAF SB3000, auto VANHOOL ALIZEE H, 49 reclining seats, rear toilet, air conditionin	ng
£	99,500
1998 EOS 90, man MAN eng, 49 reclining seats, rear toilet, air conditioning	95,000
1997 DAF SB3000, man VANHOOL ALIZEE H, 51 reclining seats, rear toilet£	89,500
1997 DAF SB3000, auto VANHOOL ALIZEE H, 49 reclining seats, centre sunken toilet, air	
	99,500
1997 DAF SB3000, man IKARUS 396, 49 reclining seats, centre sunken toilet, air condition	ing
£	69,500
1997 DAF SB3000, duto IKARUS 350, 53 reclining seats,£	59,500
1997 EOS 90, man MAN eng, 51 reclining seats, rear toilet£	89,500
1996 DAF SB3000, man PLAXTON PREMIERE 350, 53 reclining seats£	79,500
1996 DAF SB3000, man VANHOOL ALIZEE DH, 51 reclining seats, centre sunken toilet, air	
conditioning£	89,500
1996 EOS 90, man MAN eng, 49 reclining seats, centre sunken toilet, air conditioning£	79,500
1996 EOS 90, man MAN eng, 51 reclining seats, rear toilet, air conditioning£	89,500
1996 EOS 80, man MERC eng, 30 reclining seats, rear toilet, air conditioning, TV/Video£:	89,500
1996 MAN 11-220, man CAETANO ALGARVE 2, 35 reclining seats, rear continental door £	49,500
1995 DAF SB3000, man VANHOOL ALIZEE H, 51 reclining seats, centre sunken toilet£6	69,500
1995 DAF SB3000, auto VANHOOL ALIZEE H, 49 reclining seats, rear toilet£	62,500
1994 DAF SB3000 m/ret VANHOOL ALIZEE DH, 51 reclining seats, centre sunken toilet £	67,500
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1992 DAF SB2305, man VANHOOL ALIZEE DH, 53 reclining seats£	
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1998 DAF SB220 LPG auto PLAXTON PRESTIGE SLF 41 str 1997 DAF SB220 auto IKARUS CITIBUS 49 str 1996 DAF SB220 auto IKARUS CITIBUS 51 str 1992 DAF SB220 auto IKARUS CITIBUS 40 str

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More News on page 19

Ron Whittle OBE retires

By the time this letter appears I shall, after 41 years (44 if I include my training), have ridden off into the sunset - or rather on to the golf course!

Given the very large number of friends, colleagues and acquaintances I have made over the years I felt it would be remiss if I did not, through the benefit of your pages, say a toodle-pip to the many I shall not have a chance

Many of these people I have met through my involvement in and chairmanship of CPT, IRU and other trade and professional bodies. And if any operators doubt the value of 'belonging' they only have to look at the recent review of transport strategy, which will be of major benefit to all operators and is due largely to the efforts of CPT. I shall not be disappearing totally as I shall remain working within CPT until December and retain my role as President of the IRU Finance Commission for the foreseeable future.

There are many challenges ahead that will exercise the wealth of talent we have in our industry. Many of these are in the field of regulation and bureaucracy and these are difficult (though not impossible) to fight.

However one of the biggest challenges lies within our own grasp, and it is one that I have 'banged on' about on many previous occasions. Of the top 575 companies in our industry profit averaged just 4.7%. 21% made a loss and a further 41% made profits under 7.5% - whereas I reckon around 15% is needed to properly re-invest in the future! Again looking at those 575 companies over 360 are in some difficulty. If the top 575 companies are in this position, what of the others?

Perhaps my last act is to sound a clarion call to our industry - make more or say bye bye

Not only am I taking up golf again, but I hope to still be around in less high profile way, as it is my intention shortly to open a consultancy aimed at the smaller operators. Naturally I shall be happy to look at any areas they care to throw at me, but I suspect the area where I can help most is in the field of finance - costs, pricing, profits, exit routes etc. - so watch this space!

Kindest regards to you and to all my many friends.

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The Individual One

id you know Friedel Klussmann of Telegraph Hill? Probably not and the dear Lady is no longer with us. She, just about single handedly, saved San Francisco's cable cars. Don't get carried away with idea these were unique, Edinburgh for one used the same system, or that they were always some sort of tourist

attraction, they weren't. Lots of different companies provided them as the local public transport; at their peak there were over 130 miles of them. But gradually they became worn out and were replaced by trolleycoaches and diesel buses. Such are the hills in that fine City that some of the replacement buses were bought with two motors! Friedel's campaign stopped them being used, as they were intended, for replacement of two of the three remaining lines. One has been preserved, if you needed an excuse to visit San Francisco (which you don't), then that would be it. The campaigners were also up against the motor car. A lot of abandonment of cable cars came about by one way streets, although, alarmingly to our eyes, for a while, cable cars travelled against the flow. Huge flashing signs over the road warned "Cable Car coming" Just imagine...

They were also up against deviousness. The City appointed what today would be called a Spin Doctor who peddled a line that seemed to support the campaigners whilst ensuring enough votes to defeat them. He even invented committees that didn't exist. Despite winning this

skirmish, the City lost the war and the Spin Doctor had to give back some of his wages. What a wonderful, wonderful idea! The campaigners won, the last three cable car lines survived, and were rebuilt in 1982 to serve another 100 years. They're a fifth of the way there and so far so good. Whether they are part of public transport or not is a moot point, but my point is the power of an individual. The flash Strasbourg tramway was the vision of the Mayor of the City and came about. Whether either of these things is entirely logical and the right thing to do is not the issue. Enough support was drummed up to make them happen. Underestimate the power of the individual crusader at your peril.

I awoke this morning to a Sunday morning cup of tea and a look at

the news. It was an utter nightmare. A huge piece on BBC 1 about the Wretched Wroutemaster. This bus, technically advanced though it was in specification, was obsolete before it carried a passenger in anger. Remember, when the 64 seater was in the 1956 Show, it shared it with a 73 seat platform door fitted Regent V and 281 ATC the 78 seat Atlantean prototype. Within two years, Ribble had put 105 front entrance 72 seat double decks on the road and LT were still fiddling about trying to introduce a 64 seater back loader. Two fleets

Powell and Hyde number 9 descends Powell approaching the terminus at Market in San Francisco at a steady 9 and a half miles an hour, the speed of the cable. Drivers, or "Grip Men" stand in the centre of the car and operate a grip that hooks onto the cable to move and disconnects to stop. Wooden brakes, needing relining every two days, stop the car. You can see the bell on the roof, some Grip Men play splendid tunes with them.

bought it and the other had the sense to order front entrance large capacity ones. It had a total production run of under 3000. Look people, it was a disaster. It was designed for a 17 year life, by 1984 those that invented it meant it to be history. It's lasted, again, due to the power of individuals, flying in the face of realism.



A Wroutemaster in the Wright place. In company with other properly pensioned off veterans is RM1 at the fabulous Acton Depot of the LT Museum.

Now I have no real objection to Londoners being subjected to old bangers, although I do think it's a bit unfair, if that's where it ends. But it doesn't. Mention bus on TV and there they are, long lines

of the blasted things crawling along Oxford Street. How do we expect those who grapple with the levers of power to consider buses as a sensible alternative to the car when right past the office gurgle nearly 40 year old museum pieces with funny little lights and a hole in the back? OK, it's changing a lot now, but with what effort and

negative press. Let's not delude ourselves that someone realised that if you hung on long enough, they would become an investment, like a Queen Anne sofa. And what about these City businessmen who want to keep them? These are the self same people who foam at the mouth about younger slam door trains that have more leg room than their replacements. No, I'm all up for a few doing tourist work like San Francisco's cable cars, but not in mainstream public transport. Tourism is where they should have been for 20 years and I worry how long the legacy of the Routemaster will live with us and colour the outside view of the industry. Speaking of which, I'm going to talk dirty. Insurance! There, I've said it, the dreaded "I" word! Look team, my payment by The Affable Editor is geared to there being an industry out there to rant on at. I fear that rather a worryingly large amount of you are in danger of being put out

of business by ludicrously high insurance premiums. Ones that really don't take account of the detail of your business. Indeed, I fear that insurance houses see the words "bus and coach", reach for the smelling salts, calculator and box of extra zeros to put on the end. This is an issue you should be shouting long and loud about, particu-

larly to whining, whinging local authorities screeching about increased contract prices. And how much of this is down to claims against the outdated and downright dangerous Routemaster? Thanks a bunch LT

I belong to the Institute of Directors. This is not a Toff's Club, well maybe a bit, but a really useful way to "network". This means mixing with your fellow business people, putting across your ideas, learning about theirs and seeing if you can work together. Maybe they have insurance problems too. Doesn't seem a bad idea to me. They also bung out loads of really good advice about current issues. Recently they did a questionnaire about public transport. Did the word bus appear? No. I sent off a pithy reply, its no good whinging

from the outside, it's only by being involved can you ever hope to have influence.

Just like Friedel did.

East Lancs

Looking good after 70 years

004 is East Lancashire Coachbuilders seventieth in the industry and rarely during those years has the business been so volatile at home and at the same time so subject to the pressures of an increasingly global market. We have previously chronicled the perilous days of the mid 1990s when the withdrawal of Arriva's business left the company virtually without orders and more recently there was the tragic loss of Chairman & Chief Executive Chris Clarke, but despite these difficult circumstances, East Lancs has always managed to get through. Today the company is healthier than it has been in years, though the misfortunes of its rivals are creating new problems to be overcome, and with them, hopefully, more new opportunities.

Joint MD Mike Kilroy anticipates that production this year will be around 270, up from 239 in 2003, and he would like to see that rise to 300 or more in 2005, now that changes have been introduced within the factory and more staff have been appointed. Within a matter of weeks production will hit six buses a week, having climbed gradually through the year. Chassis supply difficulties reduced pre-tax profitability to £93,000 on a turnover of £22.9m but, '2004 will be a better year if we continue production at the current rate.'

TransBus fallout

The fallout from the collapse of TransBus International has created considerable difficulties for East Lancs because the problems it has caused suppliers. As Sales Director John Horn commented, The fallout from TransBus is bigger than people

realise. It has had a knock-on effect because they were every supplier's number one target, because of the volume they were producing. It has given us problems in getting parts because some suppliers have had cash flow problems. Not only couldn't we get parts, we were getting chased for early payment. We'd been there before and so we did what we could to support our suppliers. We also tried to tell them what was in our forward order book so that they could plan and talk to the banks. We also had virtually complete vehicles that we couldn't deliver because we were short of parts, which gave us cash flow difficulties

There is perhaps a perception that East Lancs has picked up a lot of orders because of the uncertainty over TransBus International, but in

fact there have only been two. London United transferred an order for 19 B7Ls that were to have received President bodies and Minerva Accord changed an order for four double deckers and is now taking OmniDekkas instead.

Where East Lancs has benefited from its old



London United transferred this order for 19 B7TLs from the TransBus President product at the time of the Mayflower collapse, in order to ensure delivery on time.

rival's misfortunes has been in being able to recruit a number of former employees of the Wigan plant. Somewhat over 20 people have been taken on in recent months and most of these were previously at Wigan. Further recruitment is anticipated with the intention being to increase the head count from 285 to 310, of which 210 will be directs. New recruits are inducted at a rate of three or four a fortnight. Perhaps the highest profile appointment

unleashed.

Noting that the number of vehicles built in
Blackburn on Dennis chassis has dropped dramatically to penny numbers, John Horn commented, 'It will be interesting to see whether Alexander Dennis

with the product and people, before he is

come back into it. With the changes at TransBus there has had to be a change for the better in the relationship, so we see selling Guildford based product as an

relationship, so we see selling Guildford based product as an opportunity that has returned having been taken away. We are already talking seriously to them.'

Factory changes

To enable the company to increase its production, and build more efficiently, a number of changes has been introduced in recent months. Three cells have been introduced within the build process, corresponding to different stages of production. When the partially completed bus is passed from one cell to the next, the cell leader has to sign to accept it as an additional aspect of the quality process. Also new is a final finishing team after the third cell. Its task is to ensure that everything needed for certification is attended to thoroughly, while at the same time

preventing the process dragging on.

Modularisation has been extended within the sub assembly stages so that each sub assembly incorporates more components than previously, leaving less to be done on the lines. An example is the front destination module, which now includes



The production process has been streamlined. With all repair and warranty work undertaken at S&T the plant can focus solely on manufacturing buses.

from TransBus has been that of David Cheeseman who will join with effect from 16 August as Southern Area Sales Manager, to take some of the pressure off Sales Director John Horn. David will spend a period in the factory familiarising himself

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the upper deck screen rail, the interior GRP, the bus lane camera housing and a variety of other items

and is mounted on the bus as one unit. Likewise, the bought in staircase components are pre-assembled off line.

Within the workshop an obvious change is that bodies going through the left hand lane of the framing shop now travel down the line backwards with their entrance doors facing the relatively spacious centre of the line, making it easier for the workforce to get at them. Throughout the plant there has been a move towards smaller dedicated teams with their own foreman, because it has been found that customised teams are more efficient.

On top of these production changes there has been considerable investment in computer CAD equipment for the design department as well as a complete IBM system to handle accounts, purchasing and all other aspects of the business. There has also been spending on an early warning fire security system and other security equipment, including CCTV systems, as thefts and break-ins from the somewhat exposed site are a problem. My impression was that the production process looked tidier than on some previous visits.

Support

A crucial part of widening the customer base and winning new business in the face of competition from larger concerns has been the strength of the company's after sales support. Turnover in the parts department has gone up from £50,000 to approaching £1m annually in the past five years, in no small part because it has been made much easier for customers to source the items they need in this way. Andrew Donnachie, Parts Manager, commented, 'We try to be very reactive.' He pointed out that every vehicle now gets its own dedicated parts manual, usually in advance of delivery. These are produced in-house by Tony Newbould and can

panels that you can't leave lying around. If you need a front end, you've always got other issues to sort



Together currently representing a high proportion of East Lancs output are an OmniDekka (left for South Somerset) and a B7TL Myllennium Vyking for London United.

out first and we'll have the GRP with you by the time you have.' He added, 'If there is a really urgent need we'll appropriate one.'

Assisted by Andy Melia and Craig Smith, Andy holds stocks based on historic usage and admits, 'we do get caught out occasionally, as we did when an operator suffered vandalism to a large number of screens at one time. We have since increased our stocks in case of similar occurrences.' He stressed, 'Should we not have a part, we are always honest about how long it should take to get it, though obviously we try hard to get them as quickly as possible. On obsolete items, if we can't help we try and put them in touch with someone who can. We try our best to be helpful.'

London United

When I visited on 15 July, virtually the whole of production was devoted to the batch of 19 Volvo B7TLs with 10.5m Vyking Myllennium bodies for

London United. The company has recently taken a batch of ten 10m B7TL Vyking Myllenniums and a further batch of 26 10.5m examples is scheduled for later this year, most of which are required as part of the Routemaster replacement programme.

Looking over the first of the 10.5m buses while it was undergoing its

final inspection I thought how successful the colour scheme designed by Samantha Beeley was. Equipped with 69 Esteban Civic seats, the buses have the latest London ventilation specification, a Compak ramp at the centre door, Deans doors,

Identic fuel monitoring systems, Clayton driver air conditioning systems and ten monitor Look CCTV

systems with two 15inch monitors - one on each deck - to show passengers what is happening on the bus at any time. They are set off with gold advertisement frames and yellow mirrors. A new arrangement at the centre doors has sprung tape barriers to discourage people from standing within the opening arc.

The only non-London United buses going through were a 10.8m OmniDekka playbus for South Somerset, that will be supplied as a shell, and the last of a batch of three Super Darts for Halton.

New models

East Lancs' history and survival has been based upon adapting to changing markets and supplying what customers want, rather than a standardised product. The company has always tried, as far as possible, to have a product that can be offered in every market, and is shortly to enhance its range with some more

options.

The last few years have seen the addition of MAN chassis to the portfolio, though demand for the 14.280 Myllennium has perhaps not yet been as great as either manufacturer had hoped. A



London United have specified these bands on their B7TLs to prevent passengers standing in the door arc at the centre door.

recent order has been for three more for Bluebird of Middleton to add to the four already operated. A further example has been ordered by BBC Wales. At some stage in the future there are plans to also offer the NL223 chassis with MAN front and rear. A chassis is already at the plant though a number of other items are awaited before the project can proceed.

The success of the Scania mounted OmniDekka, which has brought the Swedish manufacturer back into the double deck market in a big way, has been considerable. Mike Kilroy and John Horn profess themselves happy with the way that the Scania relationship is going. They are aware of the impending launch of Scania's own Omni built Scania double decker, and have no qualms about it as they have been clear from the outset that they do not want to commit much more than 100 build slots annually to one product. Approximately 100 OmniDekkas were built in 2003, including 62 for Metrobus, and a similar and possibly slightly higher number overall will be achieved this year.

A 12m OmniDekka has recently entered service as a seed vehicle with Lothian and there are a number of significant orders for completion in the coming months. Beestons, the first customer for the OmniDekka, is to take another, while Yorkshire



The upper deck of one of the London United B7TL Myllennium Vykings showing the scheme devised by Samantha Beeley of Graphibus.

be supplied in either printed or CD-ROM formats.

Andy explained, 'If we know by four o'clock we are more than confident on being able to deliver 90% of items next day. The 10% not available immediately are either long lead items or GRP

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Traction is to take six in addition to the demonstration bus. Reading is to take its first seventeen 11.9m examples with more to follow in 2005 and, having

already taken 18 this year, Brighton is to take another 10 soon.

Dennis deliveries may have fallen but they have not completely evaporated. Apart from the Halton buses previously mentioned, five Trident Lolynes for First Devon & Cornwall have been ordered and Delaine of Bourne is to take another Vyking.

Volvo continues to be an important marque for the plant, among recent orders being one for six Vykings for Roadcar that will soon to go into production. Design engineering work is currently being undertaken to cope with a new version of the B7TL with an altered front axle that is to be launched later this year.

Since the demise of the DAF/VDL SB220 East Lancs has not had a 12m single decker in its armoury but this situation will soon be rectified with a

new body design, based on the Myllennium, for B7RLE. No orders have yet been announced for this

Also new will be an East Lancs bodied VDL SB120, which Volvo sells under the Merit banner. Both of these are expected to become available early in the new year.

Something completely new that is planned to take to the streets early next year is a tri-axle Volvo B9TL

An order is already pending for a tri-axle B9TL double deck school bus with 102 2+2 belted seats. The bus would be slightly over 12m in length and can be offered with a demountable wheelchair space with seats mounted on tracking.

Export

Export business is by no means a new phenomenon for the company, which exported several batches of trolleybuses to Colombo in Ceylon in the 1950s, built bodies for Peruvian railcars and has supplied vehicles to Hong Kong. In recent years the company has built up a steady

Mike Kilroy, Joint MD of East Lancs.

business supplying double decker service buses abroad on Volvo and Dennis chassis, usually with open tops for use on sightseeing duties, but also, as with the tri-axle B7Ls delivered to Copenhagen, with closed tops. Among the locations these buses are running are Paris and several Spanish cities including Madrid, where East Lancs had first



Buses on the left of the framing shop are turned to go down the line backwards in order to provide more space for the workforce to get at them.

supplied double deckers as long ago as 1947 when it delivered five right hand drive, right hand entrance Leyland OPD/1A.



Changes to the rear grilles have been introduced to discourage children from trying to hitch rides on the back of the buses.

This continues to be a source of custom for the company with this year's orders including four 12m Volvo B7TLs for Cars Rouges in Paris and three



Andy Donnachie, Parts Manager.

similar buses for Cannes. Rather different buses for Luxemburg are two open toppers on the European Volvo B7L (in line drive) chassis extended to 12m by LPD at Leyland. Enquiries for production next year have also been received.

Even more surprising, if the deal is ever completed, will be the supply of open top double

deckers on Iveco CityClass chassis for Rome. I dare say that some of the British enthusiasts attending the company's recent open weekend will have been hard pressed to identify the two left hand drive CityClass chassis that stand among the Volvo and Scania chassis awaiting bodying in the yard at Blackburn.

Ironically, changes in Volvo's accounting and invoicing procedures mean that all Volvo mounted products are now invoiced through Sweden, so technically Mike Kilroy reckons that quite a high percentage of production is now exported, although the majority of it continues to operate in the UK.

There seems to be considerable back-pedalling from the Irish Government on the issue of privatisation, which may mean rather less scope for supplying new bodies than

once appeared to be the case. Despite this, the bodying venture established with Euro Coachbuilders remains in place and it currently has another East Lancs Myllennium Dart SLF in build. Orders from Irish independent have included buses for Paul Morton and Dualway, the latter taking a pair of open top B7TLs for City Sightseeing duties and a similar closed top bus.

Mexico

There has been talk of a deal to supply Mexico with double deckers for some time and this enquiry, which resulted from approaches through UK Trade Exports and the local Chamber of Commerce, is ongoing. With new financial backers, the Mexican operator concerned has won permission from the City Council to increase fares to a point that would support the investment and is looking for highly equipped, air conditioned, tri-axle double deckers for inter urban services. The initial order, which has still to be confirmed, is for three on Dennis Trident chassis that East Lancs anticipate bodying early in 2005.



John Horn, Sales Director.

Hybrid

Another departure for the company is its involvement in the ETS project to produce hybrid

addition to sorting out the relevant testing and cer-

An unusual job recently done was the replacement of the roof on a President with an East

Lancs unit at a time when it was not possible to

double deckers powered by a 1.9litre VW Golf diesel engine and the latest water cooled Nickel metal hydride batteries. ETS is building the chassis

bus fleet. Other painting tasks included furniture vans for M&I Commercials of Redscar, who often require two tone metallic schemes.

A by-product of the heavy investment in low

floor double deckers for London has been demand for buses to be converted from dual to single door with close to 40 such conversions having been done on both single and double deckers. Many of the vehicles converted were built in

Blackburn but other manufacturer's buses can just as easily be converted. In the

workshops when I was there was one of six Northern Counties bodied DAFs for Arriva North West as well as a number of former East Thames and Metrobus Pyoneer Olympians. Other conversions recently carried out have been Olympians for South Lancs, Green Triangle, Burtons

and Courtney, while Anglia of Beccles kept the centre doors on four deckers it acquired but had S&T repaint and refurbish the buses before they entered service.

The biggest such contract to date is nearing completion and involves 23 East Lancs Spryte bodied Dart SLFs that

tification.

Converting an Olympian that had been new to Frank Harris to single door.

manu- source the parts for the Plaxton.

Bernard commented, 'At one time all of these repairs and any warranty work would have had to be undertaken in the main factory. Developing S&T has freed up space in the plant, enabling it to concentrate entirely on production.'

Summary

In its seventieth year, East Lancashire



The only single decker I saw in build was this Super Dart based Myllennium which is the last of three for Halton.

Coachbuilders is maintaining the tradition of supplying exactly what the customer wants on as wide a range of chassis as possible. It has always been small in comparison with some of he other players in the marketplace but it has made up for this by being more flexible and adapting quickly to new opportunities. One significant change is the willingness to take on larger orders than could once have been handled. No longer is 50 the biggest order the company would consider taking on, and this is helping to encourage larger operators to consider trying East Lancs. In a market that has become global, its willingness to go the extra mile is still appreciated by its traditional customers as well as those new ones, such as London United, which have been attracted to the fold.

By Stuart Jones



One of the London United B7TLs near completion in the Blackburn plant.

at its premises in Kew. The plans is that Preston Bus will operate the first examples in a project supported by Lancashire County Council.

S&T Coach Painters

The wholly owned S&T Coach Painters subsidiary has grown in the past two years, both in the amount of work it undertakes and physically with the addition of a £250,000 four bay extension to the existing premises that opened in October 2003. MD Bernard Hunt has overseen an increase in staff from seven, when he joined in May 2002 to the current total of 28, with another apprentice about to be taken on for the Paint department, which is working 18 hours a day to keep up with the demand.

Virtually any repair or refurbishment job can be taken on and work is won from the big groups as well as independent operators. I witnessed accident



Brighton & Hove have taken 18 OmniDekkers this year and will take another ten shortly.

damage being carried out on vehicles of various types, can air conditioning being retrofitted on an OmniDekka, and former Lothian Olympians being prepared for repaint for Blackburn Buses' school were new to London
Traveller and are going
north to operate for
Yorkshire Traction. These
are being converted to
DDA specification with
front wheelchair ramps as
well as having the centre
door removed and will be
delivered complete with
new certificates of
conformity. Conversion of
early low floor buses, to
meet DDA standards, is

another area of work that S&T is looking to develop. The company can install ramps, handrails, ironing board restraints, textured poles, floor surfaces, bell pushes and whatever else the customer or tendering authority requires, in



eoman is to introduce a raft of new models and developments at the IAA exhibition in Hanover in September. The company also reported at the pre-Show Press Conference, held at its Saltzgitter plant near Hanover, that it had moved into profit, some way ahead of the predictions made when the MAN bus side and Neoplan merged. Speaking at the Conference, Hakan Samuelsson, Chairman of

MAN, and widely regarded along with Wolfgang Fahrnberger, Chairman of Neoman, as the architects of the company's spectacular turnaround, said that the recovery plan for the group was running a year ahead of schedule.

The whole of the MAN group is trading above expectations. Turnover in the first six months was up by 12.4%. Overall sales of trucks and buses are running 17.4% above the figures for 2003 and order intake is also well ahead at 20.9%. On the bus side sales are running 7.9% ahead of 2003. Despite those increases, the workforce has dropped by 2.3%, consistent with the Group's strategy to push up productivity with a reduced workforce.

The revamping of Neoman has seen the majority of frame production out-sourced to the plants in Poland and Turkey. Some vehicles are also now being fully built at these locations whilst others are panelled, painted and finished in Germany.

Neoman is in the middle of a programme of new vehicle introductions for both the MAN and Neoplan brands, and Hanover will see more stages in that programme. The aim is to provide both brands with a comprehensive range of technically advanced vehicles right across the spectrum, but with a high degree of commonality under the skin. Erno Bartha, Board Director of Neoman, explained that the company was wedded to a two brand policy and that there is no intention of side-lining one brand in favour of the other. In some markets or market sectors, one of our brands is often stronger than the other, he said, 'we recognise that brand preference exists

and we intend to service that demand whilst achieving maximum component commonality and totally consistent after support whichever brand is involved. Others have tried to merge brands and force customers down a particular route and to their cost they have found it doesn't work. In theory, the suggestion is that if you merge two similar models into one, you will retain the loyalty, in practice you don't, there is always a percentage

that faced with making a choice will choose to buy something completely different and not the alternative choice you are offering. We are not going to make that mistake at Neoman, our aim is growth, growth of both brands, not one at the expense of the other.'

The proof is there to see in many of the new products. They look very different externally but beneath the skin they are very similar. and T- Twin, meaning vehicles for a dual purpose.

The Lion's range

The Lion's City consists of the M midi, the standard Lion's City 12m city bus, the U-interurban bus, the LL 15m standard bus, the LLU interurban 15m version, the artic G, the double decker DD and two interurban versions with different seating, the T and the TU.

The standard (not low floor) bus range, now called the Lion's Classic, consists of three vehicles: the standard bus, the G artic and the U interurban versions.

The new Lion's Regio range is an interurban coach available in 12m and 13.9m L form.

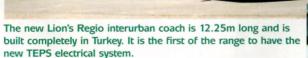
The Lion's Coach, initially launched two years ago in standard form, has been joined by a 13.8m three axle variant called the Lion's Coach L

Finally comes the top of the range, the Lion's Star, already voted European Coach of the Year in

2003. Previously the longer 13.8m version was called the Lion's Top Coach but that name has been dropped and it is now called a Lion's Star L.

The Lion's Regio

The new Lion's Regio (pronounced ree-gee-o) is aimed at the market in Europe for interurban vehicles, a halfway house between a city bus and coach, rather like the dual purpose vehicles which were a common feature of UK operation in the past, and which Scania UK have tapped more recently with the Irizar



New MAN classification system

MAN is adopting a new classification system for its products, replacing the previous letters and numbers. All the products have been grouped into five distinct groups:

- 1) Lion's City low floor city buses
- 2) Lion's Classic standard buses
- 3) Lion's Regio interurban coaches
- 4) Lion's Coach standard coaches
- 5) Lion's Star premium luxury coaches.

Suffix letters are added to denote variations M - Midibus, G - articulated, DD - double decker, U - intercity variant; L - 13.8m long; LL -15m long



InterCentury. Production of the vehicle is entirely carried out in Turkey.

The vehicle features exterior styling lifted from the coach range, using smooth lines and large bonded widows. Inside the coach has a low floor, standing just 850mm from the ground and from the front entrance up to the rear seats is completely flat. The Lion's Regio L is a three axle

13.9m version that can seat 63 passengers. The floor dimensions and headroom of 2.21m in the lower floored saloon and 1.76m at the extreme rear, means the vehicle complies with German public subsidy dimensions.

The standard coach is built to an overall length of 12.25m and has seating for up 55 passengers

plus courier. By using the full maximum width on the body, 2.55m, this gives a wide aisle, allowing additional standing passengers to be carried. The extended length enables generous sized front and centre entrances to be fitted. The second entrance can be reduced to a single door if required. It is also available with a wheelchair lift at the second entrance. All vehicles are built ready for the easy fitment of the lift.

The structure complies with R66, therefore the coach is available with a range of seating from standard bus type up to full coach seating. Similarly additional fitments like toilet, kitchens etc can be specified. The interior is

light, airy and spacious as has become something of a hallmark of recent MAN introductions like the Lion's Star and Lion's Coach. It has nicely styled racks, interior finishes and lighting clearly lifted straight from those models. The Lion's Regio also has a good amount of luggage capacity despite its low floor height. The 12.2m version has 5.6cu.m and the three axle 6.2cu m.

The Lion's Regio comes with a new MAN driver's cab. Already producers of one of the best cabs on the market, MAN has now taken this a stage further. This cab is as good as it gets.

Everything is positioned exactly where you want it to be, whether it is driving controls or instruments, body system switches, air conditioning controls or sound systems. MAN is one manufacturer that always thinks about the driver's equipment. Plenty of safe, secure storage. Other manufacturers could learn a lot from MAN when it comes to cab design.

Lion's Regio is also a remarkably lightweight vehicle and part of this

is achieved by the use of composite panelling for the full length lift up side panels and the roof. These are manufactured from pultrotate. Another interesting feature is the use of separate mouldings for the front and rear

corners allowing for easy repair.

Mechanically the vehicle is derived almost directly from the Lion's Coach and Lion's Star pedigree with similar front and rear suspension and drivelines. Because of the low floor concept the engine is the renowned horizontal D2866 LUH six cylinder unit rated at 310bhp (228kW); 360bhp (265kW) and 410bhp (301kW), all with that impressive torque back up which is a characteristic

of this engine.

The coach is a built with a choice of transmissions, the ZF 6S 1900 six speed manual and the 12 speed ZF AS-Tronic which MAN market as the Tipmatic because it is controlled by MAN's electronics. Manual transmissions for rear engined coaches are still very popular on the Continent,



coach seating. Similarly additional fitments like toilet kitchens etc. hand drive form.

whereas in England, the preference is for automatic or automated systems, which protect the clutch. MAN have also said that with the introduction of Euro4 engines these transmissions will be replaced in the Lion's Regio with automatic converter gearboxes though they have not specified of what manufacture.

Braking is disc all round and the Regio comes with EBS as standard and can also have ESP as an option.

The Regio is the first of the Neoman products to benefit from the Group's new electronics

MAN approved service agents will be fully conversant with the systems. The TEPS system also saves a lot of wiring and weight.

At the moment the Lion's Regio is being built only in left hand drive form but this could well be the vehicle that breaks the mould. To date MAN have always said that they have no plans to build

any of the Lion's range in right hand drive form, despite an avowed intent to raise their profile in the UK. However, I learned from the Neoman executives present, that they are now looking seriously at producing some of the MAN Lion's range in right hand drive form. It is understood that discussions are already going on with a UK operator and that these centre around the Regio. If that comes off, that could well be the catalyst for the development of other models from the range.

Driving the Regio

The Lion's Regio available to journalists to drive was a 12.2m two axle version with the 310bhp engine and six speed manual

gearbox.

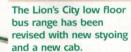
I was immediately impressed by the driver's cab. I've commented before about the quality of the design and layout of MAN cabs on vehicles like the Lion's Star and the Lion's City. I felt they would be difficult to improve on but believe me the Lion's Regio is even better. It just feels right from the minute you sit in it. Everything is just where you want it to be.

The MAN engine is a good unit. It has bags of power and torque and delivers it smoothly. I found the gearchange, which is cable operated, light and easy to use.

The test route was a nice mix of standard German two way roads and autobahn. The Regio soon showed its Lion's pedigree by riding superbly, even over deformed surfaces. There was no sloppiness at the front, just a nice smooth transition, and the body remained taught throughout with an absence of body swing and sway when negotiating roundabouts. Noise levels were very acceptable even in

the saloon at the rear and vision through the large side windows was unhindered. The air conditioning system kept the vehicle nicely





system, which will be progressively introduced across all MAN and Neoplan products. Called TEPS, (Twin Electric Platform System), it

separates all the body electrics and the running gear electrics culminating in two separate switch-boards. The two CAN systems are grouped side by side in the nose of the vehicle with a diagnostic point mounted inside the vehicle away from dirt or water, as well as avoiding the repair technician having to work externally with its consequent safety concerns. By adopting a common electric system right across its range, it means that all



modulated despite it being a very hot, sunny day.

Braking with discs all round and retarder was smooth and accurate. The retarder can be foot or hand operated.

Out on the autobahn the Regio cruised beautifully, just as I would have expected with its pedigree. The standard of finish of the vehicle was quite exceptional and there were no squeaks, rattles or shimmering of the body or its fittings.

The Lion's City

The new revised range of low floor city buses from MAN is available in 12m, 15m (LL) and 18.75m (G) articulated form. It can be specified either with the underfloor horizontal engine package or the vertical engine tower system driveline mounted in the rear corner.

The exterior styling has been modified and softened, following the trend of making vehicles appear less aggressive. A policy spearhead by Scania with its Omni range and perhaps demonstrated most effectively in Britain by Wrightbus with the styling of its body ranges.

An interesting feature is the move away from a single piece front end panel and its replacement with separate components to ease repair.

Another characteristic of the Lion's City is the large side windows, which

are slightly curved at the top as they integrate into the roof line. The rear end also features some very nice styling and smooth lines. This is the first MAN bus to use all LED rear lighting. The bus has been

designed with the space requirements for the future fitting of Euro4 engines.

The interior also follows recent MAN practice by majoring on a light, airy feel. The totally new ceiling not only benefits the look of the vehicle, it is also considerably lighter than the previous one.

The cab has again received major attention and like the Regio is second to none. The new cab incorporates 30mm extra knee room for the driver. The dash layout can be the excellent MAN unit developed from the highly successful TGA truck cab or the simpler VDV Series II layout. Once again MAN have thought about the driver's need with lots of good usable safe storage.

The Lion's City is also available with all round cantilever seating including the back seats for easy cleaning.

Disabled passengers are well catered for in the Lion's City. The bus fully meets European disability legislation which becomes necessary for all new buses registered in Germany after 1 January 2005. (UK regulations on accessibility are already in advance of the EU directive). The ramp has a 300kg capacity. There is a wheelchair space and in addition four 440mm wide seats with armrests for use by disabled people. Door opening buttons have tactile sensors and the bus is fully equipped with Braille labelling.

The Lion's City is powered by the seven litre D0836 engine in either horizontal or offset packaged vertical form. The engine is rated at 280bhp (206kW) and has an impressive torque figure of 1100Nm available from 1400 to 1700rpm.

There is also an LPG option using the 12.8 litre G2876DUH01 unit. This develops 282bhp (200kW) and 1025Nm of torque.

speed unit with the ZF Ecomat2+ six speed unit as option.

The Lion's City is of course the first production range of buses available with super single rear

Standard transmission is the Voith DIWA.5 four

A new addition to the low

floor Lion's City bus range is the T and TU for limited stop express work, this is a TU for inter-town services.

tyres as standard, giving improved aisle width and

reduced weight.

The new Lion's City also benefits from the TEPS electronic package and has EBS as standard.

On the road

On the road the new Lion's City displayed all the characteristics of its predecessors. It handles superbly with excellent ride and handling. The engine provides plenty of power and with commendably low interior noise levels. The standard of the build quality is high and the bus does not have any squeaks or rattles.

MAN has moved to using the Voith transmission as standard. It was well set up, but still exhibits that rather long dwell in changing between second and third, which seems to be a Lion's City T and TU

The third new bus from MAN is the Lion's City T, specially designed for interurban services. The vehicle features a low floor and front entrance and centre entrance/exit as standard although a three door layout is also available. The T suffix means Twin denoting that the vehicle is suitable

for both city centre and interurban

The Lion's City T was primarily developed for the Scandinavian market where this type of vehicle is very popular. The bus, like the Lion's Regio, mentioned earlier is entirely built in

There are two versions. The T is available with either 220 or 280 bhp and is intended primarily for suburban limited stop type services. The TU is only available with the 280bhp engine and is intended for express services

linking towns and cities.

The floor is completely flat up to the rear axle and then there are two steps up into the rear section with an inclined ramp of 6.5% to the

rear seat, which is one step higher. The layout is of course very similar to the vast majority of UK single deckers

The T carries forward many of the features of the other Lion's City products especially in the area of reduced maintenance.

The bus is 12m long and uses the D0836 LOH engine mounted horizontally at the rear and driving through the Voith DIWA 5 four speed fully automatic gearbox with integral retarder or the alternative ZF six speed automatic. On the interurban version, the TU, an additional transmission choice is the ZF six speed manual.

Braking is by discs all round with ABS and ASR as standard.

Again the Lion's City T benefits from the new cab designs from MAN, providing a near perfect working environment for the driver.

On the road

MAN had arranged a good route for trying out the Lion's City TU. This involved some normal German two way roads typical of those the vehicle is intended to operate over plus a trip through the nearby city of Wolfenbuttel to show off its in town abilities.

The vehicle had impeccable manners and handled beautifully both in town and out in the country. The power and

torque from the 280bhp engine gave good acceleration in the lower gears, enabling you to pull away from a stop into the traffic stream easily. It also had good performance when cruising on more open roads. Braking, was as on all Lion's City buses, was impeccable, enabling straight, quick stopping without nose diving. The bus was



The Neoplan Centroliner range is also being extended with a low floor interurban version similar to the new MAN Lion's City T.

feature of this box. It would have been nice to compare it with one fitted with the alternative ZF six speed box but this was not possible. I have driven a vehicle with that box before and I have a feeling it might give a smoother, more progressive very stable in its handling, without any excessive body roll.

The bus tested had seating for 36 plus generous standing space, which is a feature of German buses. It was also wheelchair accessible via a ramp at the second doorway.

Again the vehicle has the new TEPS electrical system as standard.

New Neoplan models

Hanover will also see a number of new Neoplan models launched, although none were available at the Press Conference. The most important change for the Neoplan range will not be immediately apparent because you cannot see it. This is the component compatibility especially in the 'chassis' area. Component compatibility is now approaching 90% across the two ranges. Neoplan is also adopting the TEPS split electrics system.

The Neoplan Trendliner will make its debut at Hanover and is to all intents and purposes the Neoplan version of the new Lion's Regio. It has the same basic specification as the MAN but uses a body style developed from the Euroliner and Tourliner. It will be available with a completely flat floor throughout the saloon.

The Centroliner bus range has been extended with a low floor interurban vehicle (basically the Neoplan version of the new Lion's City T).

The Skyliner will be shown in an upgraded form particularly the 13.8m version, and so will the Starliner. The changes are mostly concerned with bringing the two ranges in line on component commonality.

Tourliner bound for the UK

The Tourliner coach, introduced last year as the replacement for the Euroliner range, now has a 13.8m version and the Tourliner will come to the UK sometime in 2005. Because of this I took the opportunity to drive a 13.8m version and I am

Skyliner

The Skyliner range now has greater parts commonality with the MAN range and is also to benefit from the new TEMPS electrical system.

sure those who have been running Euroliners will like its replacement. The vehicle I drove had the eight speed ZF range change gearbox but I understand UK vehicles will be fitted with either fully automatic transmissions or the AS-Tronic. Can't say I am sorry about that, the eight speed unit is not one of my favourites. I know some people like them but I feel they are over

complicated for what they do.

Double deck bus

You may not even realise that MAN build double deckers. They have in fact been building them for many, many years particularly for Berlin. It was the German Bussing company that originally supplied these vehicles. Bussing is, of course, part of MAN, and in fact it lives on. The Lion symbol and the Lion's name used by MAN both come from Bussing.

MAN will be showing a new double decker for

Berlin at the Show. The design of the vehicle has been heavily influenced by Neoplan and emphasising the integration of the two companies, the buses will be built in the Neoplan plant at Pilsting. The Lion's City DD is 13.7m long on three axles and can carry 80 passengers seated plus 52 standing. The deckers are built to an overall have interior

heights of 1.92m in the lower deck and 1.74m in the upper deck. The buses feature two wheelchair ramps and two wheelchair spaces. This bus is fitted with an engine, which meets Euro4.

101 of these buses are being built for Berlin with an option for a further 100.

Euro4 and Euro5

There is a great deal of divergence of opinion between engine manufacturers on how to achieve Euro4 and Euro5. Some manufacturers are going down the route of using an additive Adblue and SCR (Selective Catalytic Reduction) to achieve the levels, but MAN has decided to go a different route. They claim to be able to meet Euro4 using their patented Exhaust Gas Recirculation system and a maintenance free PM.KAT particulate filter. With this system all the reductions in NOx and particulates take place within the engine and the exhaust system. There is no need for additive. There is also an estimated weight saving of 200-250kg.

The MAN engineers chose this route because they were unhappy about the problems of using Adblue. Factors against using an additive agent as far as MAN are concerned are: 1) availability of Adblue in less sophisticated countries, 2) problems of fitting a separate tank for the agent which would probably mean reducing fuel tank size or an increase in weight, 3) Onus on the driver to be sure he has enough

additive, 4) Problem of vehicle being illegal if run without additive, 5) Adding to the complexity of maintaining and operating the vehicle. 6) Additive freezes at a higher temperature than diesel, which could create operational problems. Powerful arguments.

For Euro5 MAN have not ruled out the option of adding an SCR but they believe that developments during the period between Euro4 and Euro5 introduction dates could make it unnecessary.



to an overall This is the new 13.8m three axle Neoplan Tourliner. Beside it is a 12m version. height of 4m but The Tourliner will come to the UK in the latter half of 2005.

PriTarder

MAN announced the revolutionary water powered, direct engine driven retarder, the PriTarder, a couple of years ago but little has been heard of it since. MAN admitted they, and their development partners, Voith, have had some problems with the system but claim these are behind them and the unit is now in full production. Currently the PriTarder is only available on certain truck models and not on buses. The advantages of the retarder are in low weight and the fact that it operates particularly well at low speeds because it depends on engine speed and not gearbox output.

Soft products

MAN made great play at the conference about work it has done on its soft package offerings, including after sales support, servicing and finance. It claims its new packages, which will be available across the full range of Neoman products, is amongst the most advanced of any of the main manufacturers.

Summary

Neoman is certainly moving ahead quite rapidly on the bus and coach front. The fact that it has moved into profit a year ahead of predictions can only be good for the industry. Its comprehensive product range under both the MAN and Neoplan names, coupled with high component commonality, underline the determination of the company to become a much bigger player in the market. It is to be hoped that widening the availability of parts of the MAN product range to the UK is followed through.

By Rob Orchard

Save time and money with the new ZF Testman Pro diagnostic system

Simply by looking at a computer screen in your office, you are able to monitor which gear, at which speed and the average speed a bus is running in city traffic using the ZF Testman Pro diagnostic system. You can also access the data via a mobile phone or a modem – worldwide.

To date, over 3,000 ZF Testman diagnostic systems have been sold and now with the development of ZF Testman Promany new features are available.

The new Testman Pro does more than just search for errors, it supports preventative maintenance as a modern management tool, allowing maintenance to be scheduled early and costs to be saved. This is because errors are detected in time, before they occur.

Using the ZF Testman Pro, all the important data relevant to performance can be quickly and



Modern fleet management – save time and money with the ZF Testman pro diagnostic system.

easily called up on a computer screen at any time. At the same time, tests can be performed on the idle vehicle and during operation. Via the recording of operational data and their subsequent evaluation, important assessment of the driveline can be achieved. Therefore, unscheduled downtimes are avoided. If, on occasion an error does slip in, it is removed securely with the ZF Testman Pro. By reading the error memory, the error is identified, displayed on a schematic drawing and extensive instructions to localise the error and remove it are listed.

The ZF Testman Pro is also well equipped for the future. It is possible to integrate the ZF diagnostic system into an OEM vehicle diagnostic system via the transmission control interface.

The requirements for using the ZF Testman Pro are simple. A completely normal PC or notebook with Windows 95 and in addition to the hardware (port and suitable adaptor cable) ZF provides the software, for each transmission type. Routine upgrades and training by ZF Customer Service provide a simple and effective method for assuring fleet performance.

'Graffiti Gone' - removing (Dutch) graffiti from glass

Kent based company, Chicago Glass, who have for the past 15 years been restoring damaged glass in the passenger transport industry, have developed a new process for restoring glass blighted with etched graffiti that also incorporates protection from future damage.

The process, known as 'Graffiti Gone' is currently being patented throughout Europe and the USA. smooth finish and then the application of specially developed sacrificial film which can easily be replaced. The restult is a clear, smooth, protected surface on the glass.

At a fraction of the cost of replacing glass Graffiti Gone is being used by many major bus operators, train operating companies and London Underground have begun using it because, until now, it has been permanent damage with no easy solution. It is also like a cancer, because once an area starts to be blighted, it seems to encourage more damage.

Many bus companies are addressing this problem by making sure when they transfer vehicles from one area to another they restore the glass first so that the idea of etching graffiti into windows is not passed from one

area to another. The Graffiti Gone process is a cost-effective way of achievbing this goal.

The problem is an international one and the company having already appointed distirbutors in the USA for the process, is now seeking distributors in other world markets where the problem also exists

For further information telephone Chicago Glass on 01474 543616.



The so-called 'Dutch' graffiti on glass is created by vandals using glasscutters, drill bits or spark plugs. The only solution to date has been to polish the damage out of the glass, which in turn causes serious distortion, or to replace the glass, both of which are expensive options.

The process and the subject of the patent involves treating the surface fo the glass to create a on their stations and waiting rooms, the process is also currently undergoing trials with Piccadilly Line on their tube cars.

Alan Button, general manager of Chicago Glass, states that, "whilst paint graffiti was a serious problem for the transport industry, this has largely been tackled by prompt attention on a regular basis to graffiti blighted vehicles. Etched graffiti is popular with vandals

New options for Series 84 industrial switches

EAO has extended its Series 84 industrial switch range to include a compact, illuminated Emergencystop switch.

The new Emergency-stop has a 'foolproof' mono-block design and

bright LED illumination, visible even from the side. It shares the same 22.5mm mounting size and low behind-panel depth with the other Series 84 products.

The full range features a choice of LED- or filament lamp-illuminated pushbuttons and indicators. Switching elements can be supplied with an integrated LED in red, yellow, orange, green, blue or white. The illuminated version is available in aluminium as well as

plastic.

A double-blade, snap-action switching system ensures tactile operation and guarantees reliable switching even of very light loads. With a maximum rating of 42V, 50mA, these

switches are ideal for PLC level signals. All Series 84 products can be connected by plugin terminals or 300mm flying leads, which enables them

to be safely adapted to PCBs of different heights. They can also be supplied with a variety fo cable lengths and connectors.

These switches are ideal for control panels where space is restricted. A low profile of just 2.0mm from the front allows panels to be easily wiped clean.

Stagecoach Neoplans begin operating the Oxford Tube

Stagecoach Oxford have began operating their Oxford Tube London express services with the new £8 million fleet of Neoplan 13.7m Skyliners. There had been a delay in deploying the new vehicles because of access problems at the Gloucester Green Bus Station in Oxford but these have now been resolved.

The 25 new coaches will take over from MAN powered Jonckheere Monaco double deckers which have been operating the service for some years. These are being reassigned to Megabus.com work.

The new Neoplans are fully

wheelchair accessible and feature a high level interior specification



including full air conditioning, seatbelts, power points for laptops and mobile phones, toilet and cctv. They have seating for 81 passengers as against the 68 of the earlier vehicles.

The Oxford Tube operates 24 hours a day, mostly on a 10-minute headway and carries over 6,000 passengers a day.

Speaking of the new fleet, Martin Sutton, MD of Stagecoach Oxford said, 'We believe this investment is the biggest one-off improvement on a single bus route anywhere in the UK. We are setting the standard for other

bus operators and it shows Oxford is leading the way in high quality public transport.'

New CEO for VOSA

VOSA is to have a new Chief Executive. The DfT has announced that Stephen Tetlow has been appointed to the position, succeeding Maurice Newey who has held the post for six years and is retiring.

Stephen Tetlow has 25 years experience in fleet engineering, logistics and maintenance support operations, mainly with the MoD. He joins VOSA from the REME, which he has been leading for the last three years. Prior to that he was Director of Support Operations at the Defence Logistic Organisation. He is a chartered engineer, a Fellow of the Institute of Mechanical Engineers and an MBA.

CIVIS on show in Manchester

The revolutionary Irisbus CIVIS guided bus is to be demonstrated by Greater Manchester PTE next week. The unit will be on show in Albert Square, Manchester, on August 7,8 and 9; Swinton Civic Centre, on August 12; Stock Hotel, Walkden, on August 13; St. Mary's Way, Leigh town centre, on August 14 and 16.

CIVIS begins operating in Las Vegas

Ten Irisbus CIVIS guided buses have begun operating in Las Vegas. They are running on the first exclusive Bus Rapid Transit right-of-way set up by the Regional Transportation Commission. The vehicles are operating for the Metropolitan Express Bus Line (MAX) which is one of the busiest on

the network. It runs from Las Vegas Boulevard North to the bus station at the US Air Force base at Nellis, a distance of 13 miles. On the route there are 20 stops and the CIVIS completes.



the run in 28 minutes, nearly 20 minutes quicker than conventional buses. The CIVIS units are 18.3m long and can carry up to 120 passengers. The vehicles have been built to incorporate some American content including the fitting of Cummins engines. They have also had the air conditioning system upgraded to cope with the extreme temperatures experienced in Las Vegas. The vehicles were built at Rorthais in France.

Scanias for Venice . . .

Scania has won a contract to supply 52 OmniCity buses to Venice operator ACTV. ACTV operates 600 buses and these will be the first Scanias in the fleet. Scania began selling the OmniCity into Italy in 2000 and has already clocked up sales of 300 units.

The Swedish manufacturer sold 310 buses and coaches to Italy last year, making it the company's fourth biggest market.

. . . and Mercedes Citaros for Rome

Mercedes has begun delivering an order for 300 Citaro buses to ATAC, (Agenzia dei Trasporti Autoferrotranviari del Commune di Roma), in Rome. The buses have a three door layout and also meet the stringent Italian environmental

legislation. All the buses have CRT fitted to the exhaust systems.

ATAC operates 2,700 buses of which Mercedes Benz will have supplied 500 including the current order.

Providing accessible buses is not enough says CTA

The Community Transport Association has criticised bus operators for not doing enough to encourage disabled people to use accessible buses. It claims that many disabled people are still not aware that they can access bus services. It says, that despite the immense cost of introducing low floor buses, the number of disabled passengers using bus services has hardly risen. The Association believes that because of a history of disabled people not being able to use bus services this has left people without the knowledge to plan journeys, cope with complicated fare structures and passes, research the accessibility of interchange facilities and organise alternative transport plans when things go wrong.

To try and reverse the trend the CTA is organising for its members special Travel Training sessions to help them assist people in overcoming these problems. Two special sessions, one in Manchester and one in Edinburgh, will be attended by specialist trainers from the USA where this type of training has become a part of the structure process, helping to make the transport system truly accessible.

For futher information contact Alison Yates at the CTA on 0870 774 3586.

100 years of buses in Worthing

Buses have been operating in the South Coast town of Worthing for over 100 years. The occasion was marked by former Southdown Motor Services preserved buses operating again in the town. Many of the vehicles came from the Southdown Bus Collection, which is based at the Amberley Working Museum in West Sussex.

Stagecoach South, which purchased the former Southdown operation

in 1989, hosted the event at its Worthing Depot. Andrew Dyer, MD of Stagecoach South, invited Traffic Commissioner Chris Heaps to cut a special cake in the presence of the Mayor and Mayoress of Worthing. Also present were three of the most senior former



employees still living in the area. They were Bernie Wingfield, aged 91, and who began driving in 1930. He retired as an inspector in 1978. Dave Caple, who is 93, began driving in 1934 and retired in 1976, but the eldest, at 99, was Percy Randall, who also started with Southdown in 1930 and retired in 1970. Oldest bus on show was a Tilling Stevens of 1914, originally operated by Worthing Motor Services. Its 43 seat open top body is even older, dating from 1908. The next oldest was a Leyland TD1 from 1929.

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Vehicle Maintenance **Advertising Feature**

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2. SUPER SCREENS

Securely established for over 20 years, Super Screens have recently increased their fleet of mobile glazing vehicles to 18. This, plus the addition of 4 more experienced glazing technicians, was necessary to cope with their ever expanding market share in the the fitment of glass for the bus and coach industry. This compliments the recent move to new premises with a large purpose built workshop which can house 4 double decker buses or coaches at any one time.

These developments have been necessary to ensure the Super Screens increasing reputation, built upon providing a fast, reliable service, continues. "Being there when the customer needs us, twenty four hours a day with no excuses, is what we insist upon" says Proprietor

Richard Knight.

The new, larger premises have enabled the business to increase the extensive stock holdings to offer a comprehensive range of glass from Alexander through to Van Hool.

Super Screens is also distributor for Berkhof glass and the only recommended fitters for the Evobus range of Setra and Mercedes vehicles.

"It is important that all work is carried out to the highest standard from the initial enquiry through to the finished job. This can only be done with experienced staff who understand the customers needs and put them first every time" states Richard

Super Screens have assembled a highly experienced team and can be contacted on 01784 427080

3.STERTIL UK "INGROUND LIFTS - A MODERN, SAFE **ALTERNATIVE TO THE PIT"**



A modern, safe functional working environment is imperative these days to enable a business to flourish. Workshop pits are a known Health and Safety hazard - people & vehicles fall down them, lighting, ventiltion and drainage is often inadequate, access to parts of the underside of some vehicles is restricted, if not impossible and nowdays, with the increased use of low floor buses, they're often not

deep enough.

All these issues can be overcome by retrofitting an inground lift into an existing pit, or by specifying inground lifts at the design stage of a new workshop. The result? A clean, clear, almost obstruction free workshop floor where the lifting bays occupy the narrowest space required.

Stertil UK Ltd is the sole UK sales & service agents for the JA Becker range of inground electro-hydraulic vehicle lifts. JA Becker, a German company based near Stuttgart, has been manufacturing and installing these types of lifts throughout the world for over 100 years.

The operator has a choice beween a 2. 3 or 4 ram system, depending on the number of axles his vehicles have. For example 3-ram systems have proved extremely popular for the servicing of 3-axle articulated buses due to the fact that by lifting uderneath the axles, you have immediate, unobstructed access to the wheels and the underside of the vehicle.

Capacities range from 8 tonnes per ram, up to an impressive 35 tonnes per ram. In most installations one of the rams is fixed and the 2nd (3rd or 4th) moves to engage the other axle(s). The area between the rams is automatically filled in, level with the floor, by sliding or segmented steel plates (which can be driven over).

A generous lifting height of 1.9m is reached in approximately 85 seconds and a reverse-driving pump ensures a constant, simular lowering

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speed. A direct link from the motor/oil chamber to the lifting ram negates the need for hydraulic hoses, resulting in a highly safe efficient and low maintenance unit. Optional extras include fully monitored synchronous lifting lowering and indicator lights showing the driver when the rams are completely lowered so that is safe to drive away. Should power be lost to the lifts a manual lowering procedure can be put into operation to safely lower the vehicle to the ground. For a brochure or additional information, please contact Stertil UK on 0870 770 0471, or e-mail us at info@stertiluk.com

4. VOITH

It's more that 25 years since Voith became a well known name in the British bus and coach world. The German transmission manufacturer based at Heidenheim has a long history stretching to the time of water wheels, and its technology is based around using fluids to transmit drive.

The Diwa range of gearboxes, with their in-built torque converters which double as integral retarders, came to prominence in Britain in the mid 1970's in the Dennis Dominator and MCW Metrobus and has since been available in heavyweight buses of virtually all manufacturers in the British market.

Voith's Diwa range soon gained a reputation for longevity, but inevitably transmissions in the punishing environment of urban bus work won't go on for ever and Voith offers a comprehensive range of remanufactured gearboxes for the aftermarket. These are offered under a service exchange arrangement and are fully rebuilt to original specifications to tolerances strictly controlled by the head office at Heidenheim, though the work is carried out at Voith Turbo Ltd's ISO9002 accredited workshops in Croydon.

Voith can usually supply transmission for any specific application off the shelf and at any one time will have around 60 units in stock. Some obviously move faster than others; Volvo Olympians for instance are plentiful and just at the sort of age where replacement transmissions are needed and which there is greatest demand. Not so long ago more replacements were needed for Metrobuses. Usually a remanufactured gearbox can be

delivered the next day and the old gearbox it is replacing is then collected a week later. Voith can provide a full remove and fit service which can be done at its premises in Croydon or, assuming that the operator has acceptable lifts or pits to meet its health and safety requirements the job can be done at the operator's premises.

For older vehicles such a comprehensive remanufacture and warranty may not always be required, so Voith offers a one-year warranty for those that want it on older vehicles, such as Metrobuses. It also offers a three-tier price structure, with the lowest cost for earlier versions of the three-speed unit, a slightly higher band for earlier four-speed units and another band for the newest 3 units.

Having units for virtually every type of bus available from stock on an overnight delivery minimises downtime and Philip Allen stresses that service exchange transmissions are always built back to their original application. And the three-year old warranty is on a no-quibble basis; should a unit fail. Voith's field engineers will go to the vehicle, run a diagnostic test and assuming the



Transport 355

Application

This new generation premium pattern-depth highway tyre features a wide, flat footprint designed to give optimum mileage performance when fitted to the steer axles on Bus & Coach vehicles.

The combination of the five-rib pattern, wide shoulder ribs and an even pressure distribution within the footprint give a high degree of resistance to tyre induced irregular wear patterns.

TYRE SIZE	LOAD INDEX	SPEED INDEX	MEASURING RIM	OVERALL DIAMETER (mm)	SECTION WIDTH (mm)	MAXIMUM LOAD	MAXIMUM PRESSURE (kPa)	PATTERN DEPTH (mm)
295/80R22.5	152/148	М	9	1044	298	3550/3150*	850	15.5
315/80R22.5	154/150	М	9	1076	312	3750/3350*	825	15.5

* Single/dual fitment Maximum pressure is 120 psi Recommnded pressure 116 psi



Advertising Feature

failure is down to a remanufacturing fault, will remove the unit and fit the replacement. "The operator also knows that Voith Turbo is supported by the manufacturer in Germany and is here for the long haul" says Philip. Moreover the operator knows that he is getting a gearbox which is literally as good as new and will retain the longevity associated with Voith. It will have been rebuilt by people that know Voith gearboxes inside out literally - and will be to the exact specification required for that vehicle, not one which is merely near enough.

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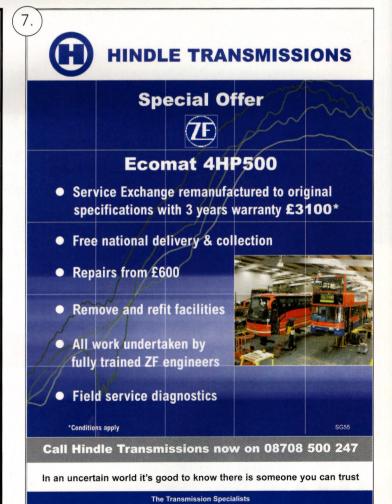
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M REG VOLVO B12T JONCKHEERE DEAUVILLE, 49 exec L REG NEOPLAN CITYLINER, 49 seat

998 IVECO BEULAS EURO RIDER STERGO 'E',

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Reg 27/6/1996 MoT April 2005, Hi roof LWB, SLD, 6 x coach seats & lap diag, belts, full soft trim, non slip lino floor, tracking for 2 wheelchairs wheelchair ramp, white exterior, no body damage, I previous owner. P/exchange possible

£3,450 + VAT



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Reg March 1999 5 Door hatch, diesel, manual, silver ext. MoT 19/4/05 1 previous owner. 97,000 m. Fully serviced June 04. Radio CD, air cond. window, electric rear screen, wheeltrin

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1983 PP Volvo B10M Plaxton Paramount 3500
1983 PP Volvo B10M Plaxton Paramount 3500
1983 eats with belts manual gearbox, finished in white, a very tidy coach for the money. Tested until May next year, ready to use, one only. It's been reduced this week to
(Be quick for this one it only wants taxing and its on the road)

1985 B Reg Volvo B 10M Berkhof
53 seats with belts, Express doors. This coach had a new engine and gearbox fitted by Volvo 16 months ago, it's a Z.F. Automatic, ideal for schools and baths with a bit of private hire, easy to drive with extremely warm heaters, it's gof 12 months MoT on it, it only wants taxing. Drive away Reduced this week
1887 PP Volvo B 10M Jonckherer Dearwille P599
Later front fitted and back bumper, 51 idly seats with belts, Rear sunken toilet, manual gearbox, finished in white. Just been fully serviced and a complete set of new their tanks fitted. Available immediately tested until next year
221,990.00 Plus VAT
49 seats with belts centre sunken toilet Mk3 model Volvo that drives very well, MoT until November, radio pa. We have fitted various panels to it including a Stretch Panel, the bodywork is finished in white. The interior is original and tidy. A lot of coach for the money, extremely tidy vehicle

Drive away at £19,500.00 Plus VAT

Cachworks Bodywork, 14 ft 6 ins height. Yoith 4 speed gearbox. Very tidy interiors, These vehicles have all for private hires. Driver friendly loads of power from the Cummins L10 engines. Taxed and long tests melted and certified

trance door. Very reliable 113 Scania engine with a brand new Scania fitted gearbox this year. Full mer from an excellent home and is available immediately to into service or can be seat belt certified of tlet this one on it's the business Drive away at £19,950.00 Plus VAT or Have it Befted at Cos

, taxed and tested, had loads of money spent on this by previous owner a little tatty on the ork, use it and tidy it up it will see another test or use fill the test runs out then break it, its £1750.00 Plus VAT will buy it

with splitter that works, taxed, tested bodywork in white a very tarn some money for £6250.00 Plus VAT in it The automatic Gearbox on it The automatic Gearbox

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Mercedes 25 seater mini buses. Volvo B10M Coaches.Double Decker Buses, from £125.00 per week, Preston, Lancashire. For further details telephone 0.7944 366737

1983/4 Y Reg Leyland Titans

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1996 Dennis Dart SLF's

Plaxton Pointer bodies, 36 seats, single door, can upseat to 40



1962 AEC ROUTEMASTER

Fitted recent Scania engines, good tests, these are almost the last of the standard length ones to become available, only hand full in stock so be quick



1994/5 L and M REG Volvo B6's ZF gearboxes, Volvo engines, 40 seats (some coach seated) large choice. These buses are a good opportunity to buy modern buses at reasonable prices





1992 J REG DENNIS DARTS

9 metres, Cummins/Allison, Plaxton Pointer bodies, 35 seaters, Choice of 5



1996 N REG VOLVO OLYMPIANS

Fitted Alexander Royale bodies, large luggage area downstairs (can be returned to seating) air conditioning, wheelchair lift in front entrance, coach seats upstairs, ZF 5 speed gearbox (capable of 60mpg) nice condition throughout



1993 K REG DENNIS DARTS

Wright bodies, 29 seats, Cummins/Allison, large choice.



Routemasters
Last chance to buy a London classic!! 72 seaters all with current tests, recent refurbishments including new Scania engines. Limited number available, ideal buses for weddings, special events. etc



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· COIF and 4 years warranty



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highback soft trim passenger seats, with 3 point inertia belts, roof vents, rear heater, large tinted windows, parcel shelves, interior reading lights with dim facility. Full 8 speaker sound system, wood trim, rear boot-space. UK vehicle, 3 years warranty. Concept Conv



2002 LDV CONVOY TURBO DIESEL Luxury spec minicoach with

BRAND NEW CONVERSION, Front entry lowered step. 17 HB. Luxury soft trim seats, with point Inertia belts. Quad vent, rear heater, large tinted windows, parcel shelves, interior reading lights with dim facility, full 8 speaker system. Patrice looker by March 26 My Direct Research Drivers locker box latest 2.4 Turbo Diesel, Ford Durotorque engine & gearbox. Low miles. Full COIF & PSV test



1999 LDV CONVOY TURBO DIESEL LUXURY MINICOACH 2.5 FORD TURBO DIESEL ENGINE PAS,

front entry lowered step. 17 H/B soft trim seats with 3 point inertia belts with removable picnic tables, parcel shelves, tinted windows, quad vent, interior reading light with dim facility.Full 8 speaker sound system, rear heater COIE + PSV COIF heater.

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** Wheelchair Accessible



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with power door, front entry, lowered step, 17 high back luxury soft trim seats with 3 point inertia belts. Tinted windows, parcel shelves, interior lighting with dim facility. Quad vent rear heater, full hi fi sound system. Latest spec, 90 PSi. Ford turbo diesel durotorque engine. <mark>Large boot space</mark>.

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53/49 seater, centre wc, boiler/fridge, radio, phone

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1993 KASSBOHRER SETRA

49 seats + courier, Air con, video, centre toilet, fridge, drinks etc, MAN Powered.

MoT March 2005

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CUDE accessible minibuses
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1996 Volvo B10M Van Hool Executive Coaches x 2

48 reclining seats + courier seat. TV/video, central toilet, air conditioning, Telma, MoT until November 2004, tax until August 2004 Price: £55,000 + VAT

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1997 Mercedes Vario 814D Crest Conversion 24 highback recently retrimmed seats with 3 point belts, driver operated in swing door, parcel shelves, radio PA, forced air ventilation MOT Jan '05. Excellent condition

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CHOICE 2 OF 1991 Automatic 57 retrimmed seats 10 months MoT £27,950 + VAT 1991 Manual Low Driver 51 belted recliners, rear mounted toilet, 12 months recliners, rear mounted to the MoT, full exec TV, video, etc.
£27,950 + VAT

1989 Manual 53 belted recliners, 12 months MoT £19,950 + VAT

months MoT
All resprayed plain white with new stretch panels
1986 Manual 3200 Full Exec
£14,000 + VAT
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1986 on private plate 53 belted
recliners 12 months MoT £6,950 + VAT
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£2,500 + VAT LDV Convoy Minibus 1996 on private plate, 16 high backed belted seats. MoT Sept 04 £6,500 + VAT

LDV Convoy Minibus Choice of 3 1998 16 seats side entry MoT Apr 05 £4.500 + VAT

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1986 on private plate 57 belted seats MoT Dec 04 £5,000 + VA £5,000 + VAT

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Power Door. Retarder Low Mileage

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1997 IVECO EURORIDER EULAS STERGO E 48St Ext, Air Cor

Centre Toilet Cont Door Video & Monitor, Telma, Fridge, Boiler & Servery

1997 VOLVO B10M VAN HOOL

ALIZEE 19/53St Exec, Air Con, Centre D/M Toilet, Boiler, TV, Tables, Base olour Pa

1997 DENNIS JAVELIN CAETANO PORTO 57 St In-Swinging

Power Door. Belts, Radio PA Cassette, Ideal hool And Private Hire Vehicle £49,950

£79,950

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ALGARVE 53 St Power Recliners, Belts, purier Seat, Cont. Door, Drop Driver Front

£47,500

1995 DAF SB3000 VAN HOOL ALIZEE



49St Exec, ZF Auto G/Box, Rear Saloon Toilet, Boiler, Fridge, Recent Re-trim, P Plate. thoice of 3, £57,950

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PREMIER 320

53 St.Power Door, Courier Seat, Belts, Re-Sprayed White, Long MoT

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53 St. Exec. Centre Sunken Toilet, Centre Cont. Door, Boiler, Fridge, Belts, Courier Seat, Very Tidy

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33St Coach, Re-trimmed Coach Seats, Manual G/Box, Coach Style Rear With

Boot, Racks,
Belts, Well
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Very Tidy For
The Year

1994 MAN 11.190 BERKHOF EXCELLENCE 30St (8.5 Metre)



Exec Rear Toilet Rear Servery Boiler, Telma Excellen Conditio

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Belts, Power Door, Courier Seat, Private Plate, Recent ite, Recent ne O/Haul,

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22 leather seats

AIR CONDITIONING

£35,000

BOB VALE COACH SALES 01494 716996

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E Reg Mercedes 609 23 seats belted, MoT

N Reg 1996 Ford Transit 2.5 semi-hi, 11 seats or 6 seats plus one wheelchair, non-PSV, MoT Oct '04. £2,600 ono

M Reg 1995 Mercedes 609 20 seats, belted or 7 seats and four wheelchairs, under floor tailift. MoT May 05 £7,000 ono + VAT

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07977 283018

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ACORN COACHES

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1992 Mercedes 711 Autobus

1992 Merceaes / 11 / 24 + courier, recent engine + £10,750

Tel: 07702 554 857

1992 Mercedes 709D

29 seat Carlyle Service Bus, Manual gearbox. MoT March 2005. Plain white £4,500 + VAT

1989 Mercedes 811D

26 seat Optare Service Bus, & Allinson Auto. MoT June 2005. Retrimmed seats. Plain white £2,750 + VAT

> 01286 675175 (North Wales)

1998 JONCKHEERE MISTRAL,

51/53 seats, air con, tv, video, PA, boiler, full spec **£POA**

1999 Volvo T9 Alizee, full

£POA

Leyland School Bus, 55 seater suitable for schools

> Tel: 01270 625096 Mobile: 07714 521089

Barratt Coaches

NORTHERN IRELAND

Due to vehicle upgrading we have the following buses for sale

1997 1 x 33 seats Merc 814 Vario Conv £23,500 1998 2 x 29 seats Merc 814 Vario Conv £25,500

1999 1 x 29 seats Merc 814 Vario Conv £27,500

1997 1 x 24 seats Merc 612 Vario £13,500

1995 1 x 24 seats Merc 811D

1985 1 x 55 seats Volvo Vanhool Retrimmed & recon engine 776/1009991/FC

All the above buses are in good condition

Belfast Bus Company

Tel: 02890 742 444

1988 Plaxton 4000/Daf 3000

74 R. Seats Fully Seatbelted Toilet/Water - boiler recent retrim

£12,000 with new test

or £9,000 with short MOT

Much work recently carried out

Tel: 01304 212859

Out of Hours - 07702 14234 (anytime)

1988 Volvo B9M Plaxton

Paramount 3200 41 r/seats, MoT to Feb '05. Recent new clutch and numerous other Volvo parts purchased in the last 12 months

£19,250 + VAT ono

1992 Mercedes 709D

coach seats, power door, recent new clutch, M2M conversion, MoT March '05

£4,500 + VAT ono

Tel: Cheam Coaches 01372 742527

E(C(O)(U

COACHES **FOR SALE**

1996 Iveco Beulas Exec.

1998 Dennis Javelin Berkhof, 51 seats

1988 DAF Van Hool Alizee. 53 seats

2000 MAN 24 400 Catalan Noge, 49 seats

1993 Scania Van Hool Triaxle, 48 seats

1997 Scania Irizar K113, 44 seats

1997 Scania K113 TRB Irizar, 49 seats

FOR FULL SPECIFICATIONS PLEASE VISIT OUR WEB SITE www.closeassetfinance.co.uk

CONTACT ANN OR DAVID ON 01283 742 581

776/1009863/FC

COURTNEY COACHES LTD

1998 Noge Tri Axle MoT til May '05, 49 seater full exec. £80,000

1997 Scania Tri Axle MoT til June '05, 49 seater full £75,000 exec.

1996 Scania Tri Axle MoT til Feb '05, 49 seater full £70,000 exec.

1996 Mercedes 711D MoT til April '05, 24 seats**£11,000**

2000/X MAN/Ayats Bravo Double Decker 73 seater, MoT til August 2005

£170,000

All the above vehicles are for sale due to delivery of new vehicles All vehicles are taxed with full service history and painted white. For more details please Telephone 01344 412302

1999 Neoplan Transliner GX

6 speed ZF, 49 seats, air con, Webasto, cruise control, drivers bunk, servery, centre toilet, TV, Video, PA. Usual Neoplan 🥞 refinements, low mileage \$

£80,000 + VATprice to sell due to new vehicle arrival

Tel: 01382 320 280

Bova Futura FHD 12

49 seats, centre toilet, fridge, boiler, TV & PA. MoT/Tax March 2005. Well maintained.

Good runner £27,000 + VAT

Tel: 07710 808331 (Midlands)

LDV Convoy 2001 16 TS, Factory Bus, Diesel, H/R, white only 21,000 miles. Warranted. Bargain £7.250 DAF SB2300 DHS Paramount MkII 1986 T & T, Air suspension, 53 sts, inswinging door, belted. 1 previous owner £7.500 DAF SB2300 DHTD Paramount MkII 1986, T & T, 53 rec, belted, inswinging door, 1

previous owner £6.750 Bedford Paramount MkI 11m, 53 sts, phase 2 £1,000 500 turbo, ZF box spares or repairs

8.5m, 35 sts, 1982 Supreme spares. Tow away £250

Herdman Coaches (Nr Hey-on-Wye) T: 01497 851616/847100 (Paul) All ono + VAT

Neoplan Skyliner 77 seats 1990

Test March 2005, taxed November 2004, Mercedes Vio 6 speed gearbox, video, toilet, tea machine, fridge, rev. camera, tow bar, interior red - exterior white.

£34,500 + VAT

01245 320 598 Essex

1994 MAN **Optare**

43 service seats

£15.000 ono + VAT

Tel: 0141 951 8888

Mercedes Plaxton Cheetah 2000

33 seater MoT June 2005, owned by us from new used daily, £57,000 + VAT

Volvo B10M Duple 1983 57 seater inertia belts, Taxed & MoT, all white, used daily £3,000 + VAT

Volvo B10M Van Hool

49 seater all white, grey interior, used daily, sold with 12 months MoT £6,500 + VAT

All of the above vehicles are in daily use, mechanically sound etc.

For more information telephone Hodsons of Gisburn 01200 445394

PAGE 31



1998 R VW LT35 TDi LWB Minibus

9 seater + 4 wheel chairs, 95,000 miles, under slung platform, Unwin tracking, SLD, 1 authority owner. Very good condition, must be viewed

£8.995 + VAT Parkway Commercials Tel: 0208 759 3969 Mob: 07766 670 411

L. J. EDWARDS

Executive Coach Travel - Hailsham

1997 (P) Bova Futura Executive Coach 49 reclining seats, seatbelts, toilet, video and twin monitors, CD/PA system, hot/cold drinks servery, air conditioning, MoT March 2005 £75,000 + VAT

1999 (T) Bova Futura Executive Coach 49 reclining seats, seatbelts, toilet, video and twin monitors, stereo/pa system, hot/cold drinks servery, air conditioning, MoT March 2005

Both vehicles are finished in white, ready to work and maintained to our usual high standard.

For details call John Edwards on 01323 440622

1999 Volvo B10M Plaxton 320

53/57 seats + courier, air conditioning, aircraft lockers, Fainsa Gaudi seats, long MoT

£77,000

Call John 07973 443032

Due to fleet replacement vehicles for sale

1994 814D Merc, 33 seater, tax & tested £13,995

1994 609D Merc, 24 seater, tax & tested

1998 LDV 400 Convoy, 16 seater, tax & tested£5,895

1998 LDV 400 Convoy, 16 seater, tax & tested £5,895

2000 LDV 400 Convoy, 16 seater, tax & tested £6,995

Plus VAT

Tel: 07711 294545

1984 Volvo B10M Jonckheere

51 seats, toilet, MOT July 2005, taxed until December 2004, good condition

£10,500 + VAT ono

Tel: 01463 240 673 Mob: 0773 043 7706 (Scotland)



Toyota Optimo Mk II

Reg Nov 1991, MoT Oct 04, 21seat + guide, tables, forced air, new video, TFT monitor, new P/A system, resprayed white one year ago, excellent condition £8,250

> 01202 318888 or 07747 803076

1993 LDV 400

16 seats, fully automatic lift, reliable, ideal for school runs

£2,000 + VAT ono

Tel: 01262 401848

1987 Jonckheere

29-seat Piccolo executive coach, Cummins 'B' series, double glazed, toilet, TV + video, drinks machine, full retrim 2003, centre carpet, blinds etc, private plate, over £9,000 spent in last 12 months, taxed & tested March 2005. A superb small coach at £12,500 + VAT

1988 Mercedes 609

19 hi back seats, drop well boot, curtains, resprayed silver, new wheel trims, taxed & tested Oct 2004, no longer required £2,200 + VAT

Phoenix Coaches 01823 324636 (Somerset) 776/1009903/FC

1989 PP Leyland Tiger L10 Plaxton Paramount 3500 51 retrimmed belted recliners, ZF manual gearbox. New clutch. Very clean & tidy. Test Sept.04

1989 Leyland Swift Reeves Burgess 37 belted seats. Test Nov 04. Goo condition. Drives very well

1997 P Reg Mercedes 611D (110 bhp Turbo) 24 three point belts. Power door. Very clean & tidy. 360Km. Test Jan 05 **£14,000**

All above vehicles are working daily.



1995 M Mercedes 410

1995 M Mercedes 410
14 seater minibus, 90,000 kms,
1 authority owner, front air door,
Unwin tracking, rear Ratcliff tail
lift, 3 point seatbelts, new tyres,
very clean vehicle, 5 speed
manual, must be viewed, credit
card accepted. M4 J3 Heathrow
£4,950 + VA

£4,950 + VAT Parkway Commercials Tel: 0208 7593969 Mobile 07766 670411

(01775 711777)



1998 'R' Iveco 35-10 Turbo Daily Minibus 108,000 kms, 16 seater minibus, only 11 seats, 3 wheelchairs, under slung access tail lift, front air door, radio cassette, 3 point seatbelts, ex dial ar ide vehicles, very good condition, must be viewed. All credit cards accepted.

M4 J3 Heathrow

£5,375 + VAT

Parkway Commercials Tel 0208 759 3969 Mobile: 07766 670411



1993 25 seater Mercedes

8 standees. 709D Alexander body. MOT expires Oct 2004. Re-painted white, end of contract forces sale

£3,850.00 + VAT

AMDREW'S Tel: 01298 871222 www.andrews-of-tideswell.co.uk vww.andrews-of-fideswell.co.u T. 01298 872412 • E. info@andrews-of-tideswell.co.uk

Mercedes 709D M Reg Service Bus

25 Seater. 8 Standing Full MOT 12 Months **Excellent Condition**

£6,500

Tel: 0191 224 0002

Rutherfords Travel have the following vehicles for disposal:

2 x 1995 Volvo B6R, long MOT, 35 seats. Jonckheere body **£49,000 + VAT ONO**

2 x 1995 Leyland National, Cummins engine, Allison gearbox, 51 seats,
refurbished **F7 500 + VAT ONO**

1993 Setra S215H £44,000 + VAT ONO

Tel: 01403 786303 or 07836 775069

Due to Fleet Upgrade

PLAXTON PARAMOUNT DAF 1989

49 seat full exec, test to Nov, vgc £15.000 ovno

MAN JONCKHEERE 1992

49 seat, full exec, test to Sept,

Reduced £23,500 ovno

Tel: 01226 755573 or 07785 394766

96 (N) Plaxton Premier B10M, 49 str, Exec,

L (93) Jonckheere Deauville B10M, 49 exec, £35,995 ovno

P.P. (89) Van Hool Volvo B10M, 55 str, retrimmed B Magic, c/s, tv/vgc.....£25,995 ovno

P.P. (87) Plaxton Paramount B10M, 49/53 retrimmed seat, long MoT, vgc.....£11,995 ovno

1984 (A) Plans our B10M, 57 seater, long Mo Dur Dur vgc ...£9,995 ono

1987 (E) Mer 20 10 24 coach seats,

All prices subject to VAT Finance available subject to status

Contact Andy 07773 785143

National Greenways Volvo's 3 49 seats belted P/P 1989 Leyland Lynx Gardener Turbo 49 seats belted

£5,750

1994 Wright Handybus 8.5 metre Dart 27 could upseat to 35

£8,750 1978 Leyland National Cummins Allison £3,250

1978 Leyland National 510 x 2 £3,250

1984 Leyland Tiger ECW Service Bus £2,350

£4,500 13.8H W Reg Olympian 77 seats

X Reg Titan 73 seats £4,500 14.6H

X Reg Titan 73 seats, new engine £4,750 14.16H

Y Reg Olympian 77 seats, new engine £4,750 14.6H £7,000 14.6H

C Reg Olympian x 2 X Reg Atlantean £2,500 14.6H

All vehicles sold with long or full MoT's Are very clean and have many spares for the above

Come and see and give us a bid All have private plates

Pilkingtons of Accrington

Tel: 01254 237032 01254 237083

1994 Bova Futura, 51str, full exec with air con, tv, video, coffee machine & fridge, MoT March .£43,000 ono + VAT

1994 Bova Futura, 51 str. full exec with dark tinted windows, middle air door & MoT March £42.000 ono + VAT

2000 Volvo B12R Jonckheere Monaco, 71 seat double deck, saloon coach. Full spec with air con and ski box.....£185,000 + VAT will part ex

Further details please phone 01665 720907 776/1009909/FC

EIGHT 1994/5 OPTARE METRORIDERS,

25 seats, MoT'd ready to work £8,500 each plus tyres

TWO 1992 **LEYLAND LYNX**

51 seats, long MoT's, Cummins engine ZF gearbox £9,750 each plus tyres

Contact Jack Hornby on 01772 253671

1996 P Mercedes 208 Sprinter

8 seater, H/B M2 seats, 3 point seat belts, tinted windows, curtains, 11 months MOT, taxed, excellent condition

£5,250 ono

Tel: 01623 752423 § Mob: 07970 667785

Day's Coaches Rotherham

95 Marco Polo Dennis Javelin 20 + mpg, 51 seater, retractor belts, massive locker & boot, toilet, TV, video, radio, PA, looks like new, mint. Must see Must try Must Buy Don't miss this one &36,500 ono + MPG 3 point seat felts will earn you a fortune average of £380 per day as it has for us schools love it, carries two class at once......£36,000 ono Don't Miss This

38,300 ono
88 11 metre Duple 320 Dennis Javelin 20 +
mpg, 53 seater, big locker, good all round condition
84 Volvo B10M Duple Caribbean, 49 retrimmed eats, with retracting seat belts, toilet, etc, Radio/Cass, A, all white good tyres, drives well re-engineered hassis, good boot lockers, double -glazed **£8,500 ono** 83 PP Volvo B10M Jonckheere P90. servirumed seats with lounge toilet, tables & Radio/Cass, PA, Brazilian mahogany wood fin massive lockers, will make nice coach with a bit of

86 MCW Metroliner 77 seater, no test, 1/3 rebuilt Cheap

DIGITAL PHOTOS AVAILABLE OR RING 01709 586 343 or 07712 936138

1989 VOLVO B10M DUPLE 340

55 re-trimmed seats, continental exit, radio/pa, new clutch, exterior cream/blue. MoT until April 05

£14.500 ono + VAT

1990 MAN 10.180 CAETANO ALGARVE

35 retrimmed seats plus courier, radio/pa, fridge/drinks. Exterior white, to be sold with new MoT

£13,500 ono + VAT

1981 VOLVO B58 DUPLE DOMINANT IV

53 good seats plus courier, radio/pa, double glazed (all good), exterior multi coloured. MoT Jan 05 £2000 ono + VAT

> Tel: 01799 508010 07740511536 (Essex)

2003 LDV CONVOY

90 P/S Ford Turbo diesel engine, concept luxury conversion, front entry, 16 highback M2 seats,

3 point seat belts, luggage racks, Euroliners, stereo, panoramic windows, 23,000 miles only

£14,500 + VAT ONO

Tel: 01733 554843 Mobile: 07831 362208

WHEELCHAIR VEHICLE



Toyota Funcargo (Yaris), wheelchair vehicle, 2000 W reg, metallic silver, 25,000 miles, 1,300icc, petrol, 5-door, p/a/s, all electrics, a/c, a/b/s brakes, cd-tape player, comes with wheelchair lift for disabled, twin air bags, superb condition Tel: 01892 540 421 £7,995

Probably one of the last in the World (excluding Malta)

1977 Bedford Van Hool

53 seater, stunning condition, ideal for work or show MoT January 2005. Tax end Dec 2004. 1 previous owner A Real Classic

£1,250 + VAT

Aug 1989 G Reg Dennis Javelin Duple 320 53 seater plus toilet and courier seat, MoT January 2005, Tax end November 2004

£10.500 + VAT

Tel: 0208 255 1997 Mob: 0771204 6398 London/Surrey Border

01775 711777

heel Deals

ES FOR £9,000 AND UNDER

1979 Volvo B58 Plaxton **Viewmaster,** taxed and MoT'd, good condition£1,000 + VAT

1988 Mercedes 609D, 24 new M3 seats with 3 point belts. New MoT and tax. Good condition£2,500 + VAT

> Tel: 01639 635502 Mobile: 01639 644622

1988 DAF MB230 **Caetano Algarve**

Taxed til August 04. Mot Oct 04, 49 seater, with toilet

£8,000 + VAT ono Tel: 01924 271 547 Mob: 07771 898 974

1983 Tiger Paramount 3200

53 seats with belts, in reasonably tidy order. MoT until 25th April 2005.

COME DOWN HAVE A LOOK MAKE US AN OFFER!!

Tel: 01507 463 000

1986 Leyland Tiger Paramount 3500, 53 retrimmed belted seats, July 05 MOT, tax Nov 04, all over white absolutely brilliant clean coach, ready for anywork ..£4,500 one

1983 Leyland Tiger Paramount, 57 retrimmed belted seats, new tyres/panels, re-painted all oever, March 05 MOT, August 04 TAX, very clean, good runner\$3,500

1984 Volvo B10M Caribbean 1, 53 belted seats, MOT Nov 04, tax Aug 04, very clean reliable coach \$3,000 ono Nov 04, tax Aug 04, very clean reliable coach \$3,000 ono 1988 Iveco 4910 Robin Hood, 21 belted seats, MOT'd£1,000 o

Breaking 1987 Bedford Paramount 3 Volvo engine

845 Tiger Paramount 25 Volvo B10M Ionckheere

T: 01733 343901 (Peterborough)

1992 Mercedes 811D Auto, Wright body

With 'fast flow' doors, coachbuilt front with 'Vario' grill and lights, 29 bus seats with retractable belts and handrail padding. Taxed and tested until March 05 Buy today work tomorrow

£4,950 plus VAT

Tel: 0772 902 1695 S/Wales

1989 DAF Caetano £7,000

1987 DAF Paramount £7,000

1985 DAF Paramount £6,000

8.25 engines, seat belts. tested good condition, loss of contracts forces sale

Phone 01225 891404 (Bath)

2 x 1984 DAF **BOVA CALYPSO**

53 retrimmed, belted seats. 1 tested March '05,1 out of test

> £1,000 each £1,500 the pair

Tel: 01482 321655

1984 Boya DAF

54 seats, seatbelts, MoT April 2005 In good condition Reupholstered 12 months ago § Wired for TV/Video. PA System Curtains

£4,500 + VATTel: 0207 3581441 (Excalibur Coaches)

1997 Renault Master Turbo (Cymric Conversion)

Underfloor luggage. 16 highback seats, soft trim. 3 point belts, new tyres. MoT Aug 2005. Taxed Jan 2005. 110,000 miles. Excellent condition

£6,750 + VAT

Tel: 01295 690100

FORD TRANSIT 2.50 1990

16 H/B seats with seatbelts, 2 tables, curtains, small boot, excellent workhorse, MoT March 05

£2,500 + VAT

MERC. 410D 1992

16 HB seats with belts, new MoT £2,750 + VAT

01923 263984 Herts

Always a large selection of welfare coaches & minibuses (incl. gas vehic

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www.auctioneers.co.uk Tel: 01685 377818

1985 Bedford Plaxton Paramount, 28 seats, 12 month's MoT, recent new engine £4.250 + VAT ono

1991 Dennis Dart, 28 + 13 standees, 12 month's MoT £6,950 + VAT ono

1996 LDV Convoy, 17 seats, 12 months MoT £3,250 + VAT ono

Tel: 01763 242080

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All prices (except drive-away bargains or unless otherwise stated) include FULL preparation, including new PCV MOT, all necessary structural repairs and replacement or repaired body panels, new MOT and respray in any one solid colour, plus delivery to most mainland UK destinations. We positively welcome part-exchanges on all retail stock

CHOICE OF 55/57 SEAT REBODIED VOLVOS - TREMENDOUS VALUE,





2002 rebodied Volvo B10M (chassis registered 1983 and 1984), ZF 6 speed manuals, chassis refurbished in 2002 and then fitted with MCI Sedisse 55/57-seat bodywork. These are smart, basic coaches which are soundly finished. They have luggage racks, power doors, forced air, modern multiplex electrics, compliant inertia reel seat belts, smart moquette trimmed seats in modern multicolour moquette, luggage boots, exceptionally good side locker luggage capacity, ideal for all sorts of work, parts are well priced and readily available, can be recertified for 8 standees if required, amazing price at just \$29,995 fully prepared and trade-ins welcome, limited choice now available so be quick to secure a real bargain.

Price Reduced!!!

1993 K BOVA FUTURA FHD, 51-seat coach, newly resprayed in white, 51 reclining seats, recent retrim in black-multicolour grafitti moquette, centre sunken toilet, servery, continental door, audio and video system, courier seat and the usual high Bova specification, tremendous value at just .£39,995 Just one now

1989 G BOVA FUTURA FHD, 53 seats plus toilet, DAF 11.6 litre 280 bhp engine, courier seat, radio/cassette/pa, price includes retrim in your choice of moquette, very clean vehicle for year, now in stock, phone now for further details, excellent value at just £22,995

1988 E/PP VOLVO B10M JONCKHEERE JUBILEE P599 53seat coach, rear sunken toilet, radio/cassette, white exterior, double glazing, very clean for year, price includes our usual refurbishment package, recent retrim in excellent grey/multicolour Somte
moguette tremendous value at ust

£21,995

£21,995 moquette, tremendous value at just



1987 E LEYLAND TIGER TL11 ZF 6 SPEED MANUAL PLAXTON PARAMOUNT 3500 III 50 seat coach, rear saloon toilet, recent repaint in white (will respray at cost if required), being prepared with new MoT, rear saloon toilet, courier seat, recent retrim in red overall patterned moquette.....£10,995

SPECIAL DEAL!!!





1984 A DAF MB230 11.6 litre ZF manual Caetano Algarve SDH 53-seat coach, retrimmed in attractive red-based moquette less than a year ago, seat belts, MOT to 26/01/2005, courier seat, white exterior, very clean for year, excellent value at just £5,495

A SELECTION OF OUR MIDI AND **MINICOACHES**



2003 (03 Reg) Ford Transit 16-seat ELWB 2.4 turbo diesel factory psv bus, one owner and just 21,000 warranted miles from new, white exterior, three point seat-belts not even run in, why pay £23,000 for a new one or buy this for just £16,995, trade-in welcome.





2001 (51 reg) Mercedes 814D Onyx, 24-seat coach, lap and diagonal seat-belts, power door, rear luggage boot, modern red/multicolour interior, twin luggage racks with forced air and reading lights, one owner from new, 203,000 km warranted, Euroliners, radio/cassette, air suspension, one only, outstanding value for money at just £32,995





1997 P Mercedes 611 (pre-Vario, 110bph turbodiesel engines, sensibly geared to cruise at 65 mph and to go up engines, sensibly geared to cruise at 65 mph and to go up hills as well as down them!!!) Mellor conversions, choice of 13, 16 or 18 seats to your preference, wide choice, all one owner, low mileage (warranted 90,000 to 120,000 miles, full size coach seats, with three-point seat belts, rear cassette-type tail lifts, full body skirts, one-piece plug-type manual doors, at front of coach, huge variety of refurbishment packages including full luxury interior, available from 29,995 to £14,495 depending on package chosen, all with new MoT and resprayed white. One 16-seat refurbished coach ready now at very special pricell!!

1995 N Mercedes 609D Frank Guy, 19-seat coach, full refurbishment with full size luxury seats retrimmed in brown/multi-colour grafitti moquette, twin luggage racks, radio/cassette with four saloon speakers, gangway and driver's area carpet, full body small rear boot, excellent little coach, real value at just



1994 M Mercedes 811D Alison automatic UVG Wessex II, 33

1994 M Mercedes 811D Alison Automatic 33-seat coach, UVG Wessex II bodywork, our usual refurbishment package including retrimmed seats, compliant seat-belts, twin luggage racks, moquette to centre roof, walnut dashboard, radio/cassette player with four saloon speakers, one only at just£16,995

1993 L Mercedes 709D Wadham Stringer Wessex II 29-seat coach, 5-speed manual, fully repanelled, new floor, body overhauled, coach seats with headrests and three-point seat-belts, twin luggage racks, very useful coach at very sensible price of just £11,995 fully refurbished.

1991 H Dennis Dart Carlyle, 28-seat bus, Cromweld, trouble-free construction, recent retrim in your choice of moquette, resprayed white, now being prepared for new MoT, will be ready next week, one only at just £6,995 fully prepared.

DRIVE AWAY BARGAINS THIS WEEK

1995 N Peugeot Boxer 2.5 diesel, 11-seat minicoach, high-back seats with three point seat-belts, white exterior with vinyls, tracking to rear (but never fitted with tail-lift), MoT just expired, clean and tidy for year, excellent value at just

1995 N Mercedes 609D Frank Guy, 20-seat coach, power door, retrimmed in brown grafitti-style moquette, radio/cassette, saloon heater, small rear luggage boot, twin luggage racks, full body skirts, moquette to centre roof, MOT November, due in soon. £10.995

1993 L Mercedes 811D Alison automatic Dormobile Routemaker, 33-seat coach, refurbished 2001 with new coach seats in attractive grey/green moquette, compliant seat-belts, average bodily, MOT to October 30th 2004, very good value at just

1993 K Optare Metroriders, Cummins/Alison drivelines, all 25/26 -seaters but will upseat to 31, good interior trim, clean damage-free bodywork, narrow bodies, most with current MOT's, choice of just five of these clean and well maintained buses Stunning value from just £2,695 o £2,995 each depending on age and MOT

1992 J Mercedes 811D Alison automatic Carlyle, 33-seat coach, refurbished 2000 with retrimmed grey/blue coach seats, compliant seat-belts, twin luggage racks, price includes new MOT very clean inside and out, one only at this price......£6,995

1992 J Mercedes 308D 5-speed manual, Crystal 12-seat coach with rear wheelchair, MOT November 2004, exceptionally clean for year, from a very good home, ideal for that extra contract

1989/90 G Mercedes 811D PMT Ami, 33-seat coach, refurbished 3 years ago, attractive blue moquette interior with compliant inertia reel seat belts, refurbished 2001 with new interior, green exterior, MOT May 2005, could do with a respray but drives well and very clean inside, one only at this price.......£4,695





1989 G Mercedes 709D 5-speed manual Carlyle 25-seat bus, will upseat to 29 if required, smart interior trim, tidy white/red/green exterior, long MOT to May 2004, very clean example, ideal spare or contract vehicle, just

1988E Cummins/Tiger £3,995

1988 E Leyland Tiger Cummins L10, ZF manual Duple 340 53seat coach, rear sunken toilet, recent respray in white/blue, original interior, good appearance but requires body and structural repairs for next MOT, gearchange poor (possible clutch repair required) tested to November 2004, very cheap at £3.995

11-metre semi-automatic Tiger





1985 C Leyland Tiger TL11, 11-metre chassis, hydracyclic 5 speed gearbox, Duple Laser II 53-seat bodywork, current MoT, tidy condition for age, original grey/blue stripe interior, silver/blue exterior, ideal spare or contract vehicle, nice old coach at just



1984 A Bedford YNT 11 metre Duple Laser II, 53 seat coach, now in stock, MoT December, red/cream exterior, seats retrimmed in brown chevron centre pattern moquette, very nice old coach for £1,995 year, excellent value at just.





1984 A DAF MB230 11.6 litre ZF Manual Van Hool Alizee H, 51-seat coach, centre sunken toilet, continental door, MoT October, original interior, seat-belts fitted, in average condition for year, but it is a Van Hool, due in mid July, ideal spare or for operator refurbishment, one only at this price ...

WE OFFER ALL USUAL FACILITIES (such as finance, subject to status, part-exchange facilities and on-site inspections) AND SOME LESS USUAL ONES, LIKE PROPER WORKSHOPS, WARRANTIES AND DELIVERY!!!!!

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ACCESSIBLE VEHICLES

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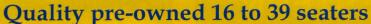
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1992 BOVA FUTURA FHD - MERCEDES ENGINE

49 reclining seats, centre sunken toilet, continental door, drinks machine. Interior - blue/grey/orange. Exterior -

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53 reclining seats, continental door. Interior - red. Exterior - white/red/blue

1986 BOVA FUTURA FHD,

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1998 VOLVO B9M VAN HOOL ALIZEE,

28 reclining seats, air conditioning, rear toilet, servery incorporating water boiler, fridge & sink. Interior -black/orange. Exterior - white.

1996 VOLVO B10M JONCKHEERE DEAUVILLE,

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53 reclining seats, continental door. Interior - brown. Exterior - white.

1989 VOLVO B10M VAN HOOL ALIZEE,

53 reclining seats, wired for video & monitor, double glazed side windows. Interior - red. Exterior - white.

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48 reclining seats, air conditioning, rear toilet, servery with fridge, drinks dispenser & storage cupboard, wired for video & monitor. Interior - green. Exterior - cream.

2001 IVECO BEULAS EL MUNDO,

automatic transmission, 48 reclining seats, rear floor level toilet, rear servery incorporating drinks dispenser, cool box & storage cupboards, wired for video & monitor, air conditioning. Interior - green. Exterior - cream. 2000 IVECO BEULAS STERGO,

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21 seats. Interior - grey/red. Exterior - white.
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29 seats, powered entrance door. Interior - grey. Exterior - white/blue. 1991 MAN 18-180 CAETANO ALGARVE,

35 reclining seats, continental door. Interior - Autumn Tint. Exterior - white.

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1988 DENNIS JAVELIN DUPLE 3200,

68 seats. Interior - brown. Exterior - red/cream.

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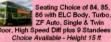
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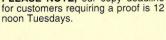
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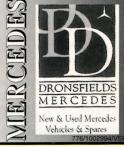
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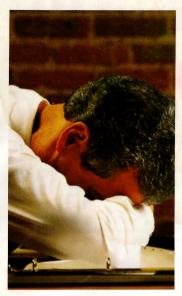
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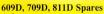
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Two more Midi Merits for GHA



After purchasing two Volvo Merit midibuses in May, Wrexham based GHA Coaches has invested in two more. The new vehicles are already in use on Flintshire County Council's Mold to Chester route and their specification is higher than the previous two.

The 39 seaters have capacity for 28 standees plus one wheelchair user. They are fitted with CCTV and digital information displays as well as radio/cassete and CD player.

The Merit midibus has a 10.8m Wrightbus body. The VDL SB120 chassis features a Euro3 Cummins ISB engine rated at 150 bhp, matched to an Allinson LCT2000 five speed automatic gearbox.

Tiger captures a Cheetah in Nottingham



Nottingham based operator, Tiger European, have added this new Plaxton Cheetah to their fleet.

The stylish Cheetah built by Plaxton at South Anston is equipped with 33 Fainsa Gaudi Plus seats.

The vehicle was supplied by Plaxton Coach Sales Centre, at Anston, Sheffield.

First new VDL SB4000 for Southern Coaches



Southern Coaches of Barrhead, Scotland have taken delivery of their first VDL (DAF) SB4000XF coach. The vehicle is fitted with Van Hool Alizee bodywork and is the first coach with fully automatic transmission to join the fleet. Southern Coaches run an extensive fleet of DAF coaches

The interior specification includes rear saloon toilet, fridge and boiler, 10 disc CD changer and full climate controlled air conditioning. The SB4000 XF has a 340bhp engine matched to ZF automatic transmission with integral retarder. It was supplied by Arriva Bus & Coach.

New Irisbus Indcar Maxim 2 for Tilley's



Cornwall based Tilley's Coaches has taken delivery of its first Irisbus Indcar Maxim 2 midi coach. Tilleys operate twelve coaches, eight of which are midis

Supplied by UK Coach and Bus Ltd, the coach it is built on the Iveco CC100 chassis with 210 bhp engine and ZF six-speed manual gearbox. The interior specification includes 29 Kiel Avance recliners, interior luggage racks, carpets, curtains, radio/CD and climate control.





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